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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

PH joins world in observance of No Tobacco Day

By Jovelyn R. Ubi and Penelope P. Endoso

IF YOU can't kick the habit, at least stop smoking even for a day.

The Department of Health urged the appeal to 10 million smokers in the Philippines in observance of "World No Tobacco Day" today—a global campaign initiated by the World Health Organization to draw attention to the health menace of tobacco use.

Nonsmokers, too, can play their

PAGE/SECTION

SPORTS

Djokovic gains semifinals; Federer in final 8/ A19

LIFESTYLE

Lisa Macuja bids goodbye to major dance roles / C1

BUSINESS

GDP growth slows down in 1st quarter / B1

ENTERTAINMENT

Club gig presents new Pinoy songwriters / E1

After fishkill, 'bangus' consumers cautious

By Marisar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

DESPITE assurances of safety from authorities and merchants, consumers in Batangas province still won't touch even plump, fresh-looking fish sold in the local wet markets, days after patches of their famous

AFTER A1 ▸

P-Noy lets go of Diokno

Chinoy trader tagged in smuggling of black coral

By Philip C. Tubeza

A CHINESE-FILIPINO businessman has been identified as the financier in the failed attempt to smuggle P35 million worth of marine life that exposed the massive destruction of a black coral network off Cotabato province reportedly five times the size of Manila.

Raequel Navarro, consignee of the illegal shipment, identified the woman and two accomplices, but their names were withheld pending investigation, Customs Police Colonel Romulo Gualberto told reporters yesterday.

"The businesswoman is supposed to be the financier of the project. She exports marine products to Taiwan," Gualberto said. "(Navarro) is claiming he was only hired by the Chinese businesswoman."

Navarro is under investigation after customs officials intercepted two large container vans containing coral—declared as rubber and consigned to him—earlier this month. The shipment revealed more than 21,000 pieces of black corals, 161 dead turtles and other marine life.

Coral expert Gary Williams of the California Academy of Sciences estimated that the area damaged or destroyed due to the harvesting of the black corals could reach up to 139.9

CHINOY A-5

CARGO INSPECTION Sen. Jinggoy Estrada shows photographers some of the rare black corals during an inspection of the seized illegal shipment at the Bureau of Customs in Manila.

DOJ panel eyes raps vs 10 execs of BuCor

By Christine O. Avendaño and Marlon Ramos

FRIENDSHIP couldn't save him.

Twelve days after a television camera caught a high-profile convicted killer moving around in the Makati City business district, President Aquino yesterday announced the resignation of his longtime friend, Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Frasco Ordoñez, praising him for heeding his conscience.

Mr. Aquino announced Ordoñez's "irrevocable resignation" on national television after their 20-minute meeting in Malacañang and after he received a Department of Justice report tagging 11 people in connection with the out-of-prison caper of former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste.

Ordoñez's resignation came a week after he said in an interview on Radio Inquirer that he had no intention of quitting. "I did not resign. I'm not going. I am not guilty," he said on May 24. "What they're saying about command responsibility does not apply to me."

In a chief's statement in Filipino, Mr. Aquino extolled his ties with Ordoñez and added: "Our number has always been clear: Only the interest of the people guides our decisions, and [at] our association or friendship with anyone."

The President described his meeting with Ordoñez before accepting his resignation as an "emotional moment." He also admitted there was "a possibility" he would appoint Ordoñez, a retired police officer, to another position, but he did not elaborate.

Justice Secretary Leila de Li

PAGE A2

After Malta vote, House body tackles divorce bill

OVERWHELMINGLY Roman Catholic Malta has voted to legalize divorce. Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi announced on Sunday after a referendum, leaving the Philippines as the only country where it is banned.

The vote in Malta spurred memes on the House of Representatives to legalize divorce amid an already widening split between the influential Catholic hierarchy and the administration of bachelor President Benigno Aquino over a population control measure.

Gonzi, who campaigned against the introduction of divorce ahead of Saturday's nonbinding referendum, said it was now up to the Mediterranean archipelago's parliament to legalize the dissolution of marriage.

"This is not the result that I wished for, but the will of the people has to be respected and parliament should enact a law for the introduction of divorce," said the conservative prime minister.

The divorce measure was passed by a majority of 53.2 percent of those who cast ballots, although nearly a quarter of eligible voters did not bother to go to the polls, election officials said.

Apart from the Vatican city-state, Malta is one of only two countries in the world—the Philippines is the other—that bans divorce. Chile was the last country to legalize divorce in 2004 after overwhelming public pressure.

Saturday's nonbinding referendum asked the country's 380,000 mainly Catholic voters whether parliament should introduce a new law that would allow couples to obtain a divorce after four

AFTER A7

HERITAGE TREE President Aquino, assisted by Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, and LPA officials unveil a commemorative marker for Malacañang's "balete" as a "heritage tree."

Malacañang has another stay-in smoker

By Christine O. Avendaño

ADDS from the President there's another untouchable "smoker" in Malacañang—and he's definitely there to stay.

President Aquino yesterday declared an ancient "balete" —one that looms in front of Malacañang and failed to be home to a "kapre"—as a "her

MALACAÑANG A-3

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

4D 3D 2D
4 13
3 5 5
6 1 8
SUERTRES
FOUR DIGIT
5 1 6 3
MEGALOTTO 6/45
2 9 10 35 29 43
P4,500,000.00
GRAND LOTTO 6/55
6 13 23 32 44 49
P136,127,435.20

FDA warns vs Taiwan juice, jelly

By Jocelyn Uy

THE FOOD and Drug Administration (FDA) yesterday advised consumers to avoid buying sports drinks, soft drinks, fruit juices and jellies imported from Taiwan which are suspected of having been contaminated with a chemical harmful to health.

Taiwanese authorities have confirmed that the chemical Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) was illegally added to a food product raw material described as a "cloudy agent" and intended for emulsification, said FDA Director Suzette Lazo in an advisory.

"The Taiwanese FDA has not yet identified the brands of the tainted products, so to a precautionary measure, we advise Filipino consumers to refrain from buying them," Ong said in the interview by phone.

Pending identification of the tainted products by Taiwanese health officials, the public must avoid all high-risk products imported from that country, said Department of Health consultant Dr. Willie Ong.

Ong identified the high-risk products as sports drinks, fruit juices, jellies and soft drinks.

As soon as its counterpart in Taiwan has identified the names of the tainted products, the FDA will immediately instruct all supermarkets and retail outlets to recall the products, said Ong.

Remove from shelves

In the FDA advisory, Lazo said supermarkets and other stores should temporarily remove high-risk items from their shelves until such time that these are proven to be free of the contaminant DEHP.

DEHP is widely used in the manufacture of plastic articles like intravenous bags and tubing, gastric tubes and blood bags. While low doses of the chemical are safe, prolonged exposure could have harmful effects to health.

High or repeated exposure to DEHP among children could lead to testicular defects, toxicity in kidneys and fertility problems.

Tracing the company

Over the weekend, Lazo reported that "the Taiwan government has informed the Department of Health that a company may have exported to the Philippines food products containing additives contaminated with DEHP."

"Efforts to trace the local counterpart of this company are currently in progress," she had added.

Ong recalled that at the height of the melamine-tainted milk scare in 2008, the FDA was able to immediately order a recall of the tainted milk products from China because the latter provided it with a list of the affected brands.

Six babies died and about 300,000 children in China were taken ill after consuming infant formula laced with melamine. No casualties were reported in the Philippines.

BLESSED JOHN PAUL STAMPS

ACTING manager Elenita de Leon-San Diego of the Philatelic and Philatelic Department of the Philippine Postal Corp., holds up special commemorative stamps marking the recent beatification of Pope John Paul II, at the Manila Central Post Office earlier this

WikiLeaks: Envoy gave US Pinoy views on hijacking

By Jerry E. Esplanada

ONLINE whistle-blower WikiLeaks has released the fifth of 1,796 cables that supposedly originated from the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

In the seven-memo, dated Nov. 7, 2007, then US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney reported to the Department of State in Washington, DC on the "Philippine views on the MV Golden Ray piracy."

The chemical tanker Golden Ray (not "Myrt") and its 23-man crew, including nine Filipinos, were seized in October 2007 by Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden. US naval destroyers responded to the ship's distress call.

Kenney disclosed that the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs was "unable to provide additional information regarding the identity of the 10 Filipinos among the (ship's) crew."

The envoy named the "points of contact for the case" as Special Assistant Lorenzo Aseo and Executive Director Carmen Bolastoc, both of the DFA Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs.

"When Mr. Bolastoc was asked about Philippine legal procedures and provisions that might enable the Philippines to accept custody of, and prosecute pirates apprehended in connection with the piracy of the Golden Ray, Mr. Bolastoc responded that since the seizure was not Philippine-flagged and the incident did not occur in Philippine territorial waters, there was no basis or precedent under Philippine laws for prosecution of the pirates. He seem[ed] to ask that the embassy keep the Philippine government apprised of developments in the case," Kenney said.

In an Dec. 31, 2007, press release, the DFA reported that the 23 crew members of the Golden Ray were being "treated well" by their captors.

The US embassy said it does not comment on supposedly leaked documents from the mission.

Embassy spokesperson Helena Thompson earlier said that "any unauthorized disclosure of classified information by WikiLeaks has harmful implications for the lives of identified individuals that are jeopardized, and also for global engagement among and between nations."

Top brass mull upgrades in contested territories

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Top military and defense officials sat down with local military commanders here yesterday to discuss the upgrading of military facilities in the face of repeated Chinese incursions into Philippine claimed territories in the South China Sea.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr. conferred with leaders of the Western Command covering the country's territorial claims on the Reed Bank and the Spratlys group of islands.

"We are trying to upgrade our resources to be able to protect our maritime area. It's not easy because we lack funding and so we have to prioritize," Gazmin said following a closed-door meeting with Western chief Lt. Gen. Jaime Bautista.

Corrective actions

Gazmin said they paid the visit to unobtrusively what needed to be done—if any—and, say, corrective actions, he said.

Gazmin and Oban returned to Manila early in the afternoon. Their itinerary was for all to see were the air and sea patrols in the area and to see to it that there should be continuous dialogues, said Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Batac in a later interview.

Gazmin assured the Western troops that the dilapidated airstrip on the Philippine-occupied Pag-asa Island in the Spratlys would be repaired since funds were now available, Batac said. The construction, was delayed by the onset of the rainy season, he added.

2 fighter jets

The visit of the two officials was prompted by a Philippine Air Force's (PAF's) report that two fighter jets were spotted over Philippine claimed Reed Bank in the South China Sea on May 11.

The PAF had said that it could not identify the intruding planes.

On March, two Chinese Navy gunboats reportedly "harassed" a government oil exploration vessel at Reed Bank.

Reed Bank is closer to the Palawan mainland than the Kalayaan Island Group in the Spratlys which are also being claimed by the Philippines.

Gazmin said that contrary to criticism that the government of no clear strategy on the Spratlys, Malacañang was patterning this legacy as a means of thwarting the aggressive moves of China.

"In the first place, in terms of military resources, were strong dialogue. I've been nothing to (show). Our preference is to the legacy based on the objective that we need active confidence. Besides, all of our actions (diplomatic protests) are recorded and recognized internationally. So this time, I am sure the international community will take cognizance of these issues," he explained.

Asean involvement

Gazmin said the Philippines was pushing for the biggest involvement of Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) in resolving the South China Sea issue.

"We want to speak with one voice in Asean," Gazmin said.

He was reacting to criticism raised last week by Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez who decried the government's "silver" approach to the Spratlys.

"There should be a comprehensive solution, a road map to peace," Alvarez, to whose Palawan district the contested reefs are covered, said.

The Spratlys, a reputedly oil-rich chain of islands and reefs, is claimed wholly or in part by the Philippines, China, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and Taiwan. With a report from Donna Pazzibugan

De Lima upheld on deportations

THE COURT of Appeals (CA) has thrown out the petition for habeas corpus filed by six of 14 Taiwanese nationals who had questioned Justice Secretary Leila de Lima's order deporting them to China early this year.

In upholding the legality of De Lima's order, the appellate court said the petitioners' deportation to Beijing on Feb. 2 was in consonance with the Philippine government's "one-China policy."

"It need not be overemphasized that it was most prudent for the government to deport the petitioners to mainland China pursuant to the one-China policy," the court said in a 35-page resolution penned by Associate Justice Francisco Acosta.

Concurring with the decision were Associate Justices Vicente Veloso and Samuel Gaerlan.

"[The Philippine recognizes Taiwan as a province of China. As creatures of fact, during the hearing on 16 March 2011, the counsel for the petitioners admitted that the adherence by the government to the one-China policy was a political question," the ruler said.

Citing the fact that the petitioners had already been deported, the court said the petition should be considered moot.

The petitioners were among a group of Taiwanese and Chinese tourists who were arrested in separate operations by Bureau of Immigration (BI) agents in Muntinlupa and Makati cities.

Authorities said the foreigners were behind a multimillion-dollar scam victimizing thousands of Chinese mainlanders.

Although the appellate court reiterated its earlier ruling "finding the Taiwanese nationals' arrest deficient, it said the filing of a criminal case against them legitimized their arrest, detention and subsequent deportation. —Marlen Ramos

PH calls for 'new thinking' in non-aligned movement

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PHILIPPINES has called on a paradigm shift for the 120-member Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), stressing the need to "replace the old dogma of national liberation with a commitment to democracy and good governance."

The call was made in Doli, Indonesia, which hosted the 56th NAM Ministerial Conference and commemorative meeting on the 50th anniversary of the organization.

Foreign Undersecretary for Special Concerns Jose Brillantes, head of the Philippine delegation to the May 25-27 conference, emphasized that "while we must cherish our past and solidarize ourselves to our principles, we must also broaden the horizons of our movement."

In his remarks, Brillantes pointed out that "the driving force that brought us together 50 years ago was the fight for our (own) freedom, not individual freedom."

"Today, democracy and good governance are as important for our historic fight against colonialism," he said.

Underscoring greater cooperation between and among NAM members, Brillantes also identified "economic of key importance to the movement," including migrant workers' rights, the scourge of nuclear weapons and the United Nations' central role in global peace and security.

Later in a statement, Brillantes said, "Adherence to democracy and the promotion/attainment of good governance will help ensure the enabling environment that will allow nations and peoples to participate actively and share in the fruits of sustained global peace, progress and prosperity."

"The Philippines under President Aquino is fully committed to democratic values and good governance, and we will do our utmost to work with our partners in NAM, at the UN and other international and regional fora, to ensure that the hallmarks of democracy are broadened and that good governance serves as the framework for success," he said.

Founded in 1961, NAM groups countries which consider themselves not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.

In its 1976 Havana Declaration, the movement said it aims to ensure the "national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, interference, as well as against great power and bloc politics."

In March 2010, the Philippines hosted the Special NAM Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, where more than 120 delegates signed the Manila Declaration calling for respect for cultural and religious diversity and the promotion of tolerance and unity in faith's dialogues.

Under the 24-point declaration, NAM member-countries reaffirmed that "dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions should be a durable process, and that it is not an option but a must to promoting economic and social development, peace and security, and human rights."

Foreign students must get visas, permits—BI

THE BUREAU of Immigration (BI) has reminded foreign nationals intending to study in the Philippines to secure a student visa or study permit from the nearest Bureau before enrolling in a school.

Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. issued the reminder as classes are set to start on June 6.

The bureau expects foreign students to troop by the Bureau's to the BI main office in Intramuros, Manila, to get their student visas.

David said schools may not admit foreigners without student visas or study permits.

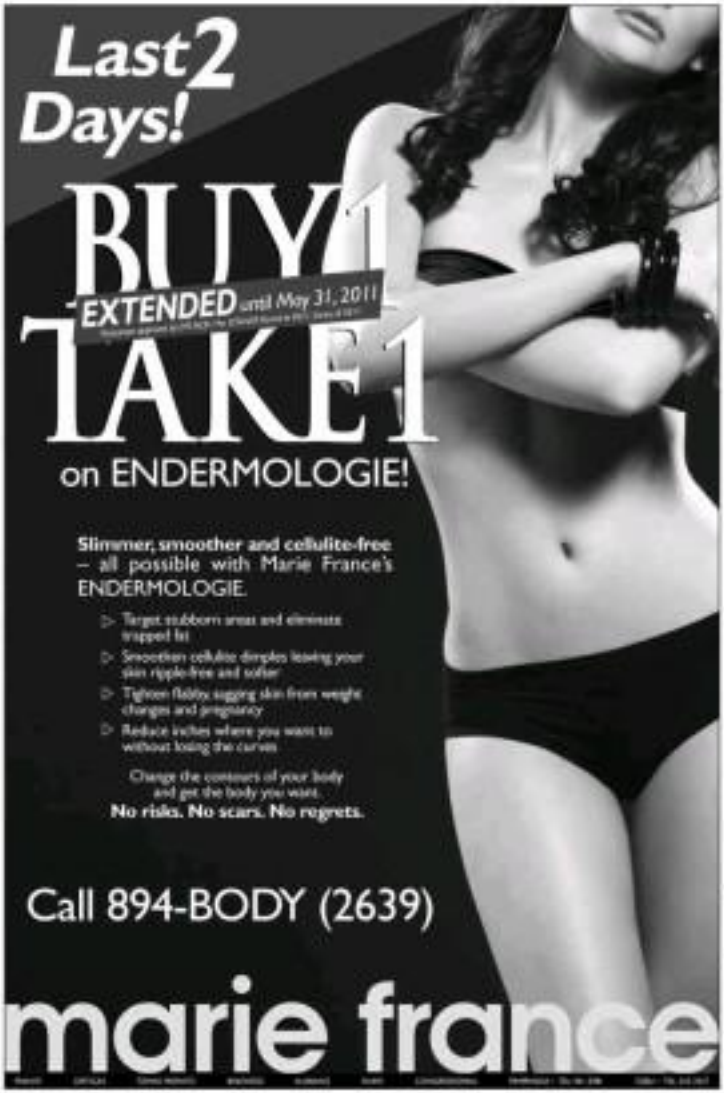
"Also, a school must be accredited or authorized by the BI before it can accept foreign students, or the school will be fined for violating bureau regulations," he said.

Lawyer Grace Lara, chief of the BI student desk, said those wishing to enroll in elementary and high schools, and those taking special courses such as language tutorials, must apply for a special study permit (SSP).

The BI student desk processes and evaluates applications for student visas and SSPs and forwards them to the commissioner's office for approval.

The fee for a student permit application is P6,550, while an SSP application costs P4,740.

David advised foreign students to pay directly to the bureau's cashiers to avoid being victimized by unscrupulous individuals. Jeremy Aning



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By Nino Calleja

SOME 100 employees of the Department of Education (DepEd) took their positions in front of telephones and computers yesterday to answer queries and complaints from parents and students ahead of the opening of classes.

Many of the queries, according to members of DepEd's Dyalan Bahli Eskwela (DBE) Information and Action Center were about school benefits problems and increased fees.

The action center will operate from 8 May to 6 June 15.

Education Secretary Br. Armin Luistro FSC said the DepEd central office in Pasig City, Manila, will be operational to 200 regional and provincial offices in the country. DepEd officials said:

"Our target is to ensure the smooth opening of classes by encouraging all our stakeholders to voice out their concerns," Jesus Sonnipo, DepEd assistant secretary for planning, said in a press briefing

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Andal Sr., Zaldy Ampatuan said to be feuding

By DJ Yap

ZALDY Ampatuan has asked to be moved to another cell away from his father, Andal Ampatuan Sr., the patriarch of the clan accused of being behind the 2009 Maguindanao massacre.

The new warden of the Quezon City Jail Annex at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City told Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo of Zaldy's request during the latter's surprise inspection of the facility early Monday morning.

Senior Insp. Edgar Cantos said he did not know what prompted Zaldy, a former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, to ask to be separated from his father.

"I don't have the request right now, but I will take it up in my interview," Cantos told the Inquirer later by phone. He declined to answer more questions, saying he was not authorized to comment on the matter.

Robredo made the unannounced 6 a.m. visit in the wake of reports that the Ampatuans were being accorded VIP treatment in the jail as they await trial for the killing of 57 people in Maguindanao town, Maguindanao, on Nov. 23, 2009.

Upon his invitation, the 16-count and another breakfast joined Robredo.

During the inspection, Zaldy and Andal Jr. were not in their shared cell. Both were in the air-conditioned infirmary. Zaldy seated in a chair wearing a t-shirt and shorts while Andal Jr. was on a bed.

A partition partially hid the bed and Andal Jr. from view. Father and son did not appear to be speaking to each other.

Father-son gap?

Meanwhile, a government official, who sought anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said he was privy to a rift between father and son.

He said that even before Zaldy asked to be moved to another cell, a message of Zaldy's family had revealed to him that there was dissension within the Ampatuan clan, with Zaldy supposedly inclined to turn against his father.

"Now it's a question of what Zaldy is prepared to reveal in exchange for what the government can offer him," the official said, adding though that he thought it unlikely that Zaldy would turn on Andal Sr.

The Ampatuans, on in all, are in detention units (now 98 others awaiting trial for the massacre that claimed 57 lives, including those of 31 media men.

The fateful day

The clan allegedly wanted to stop it all cost a convoy of relatives and supporters of then Buluan mayoral bet Esmael Mangudadatu from taking place on its way to Shariff Aguak to file the mayor's candidacy papers for the governorship of Maguindanao, a post Andal Ampatuan Jr. also coveted.

The 100-vehicle convoy stopped the six-vehicle convoy and allegedly killed all who were in it, including Mangudadatu's wife, sisters and lawyers, and 31 journalists who were in cover-the-event team.

At the jail, the six temperature sweeps Cell 1. The 99 or so other inmates are housed in Cells 2-4.

No special treatment

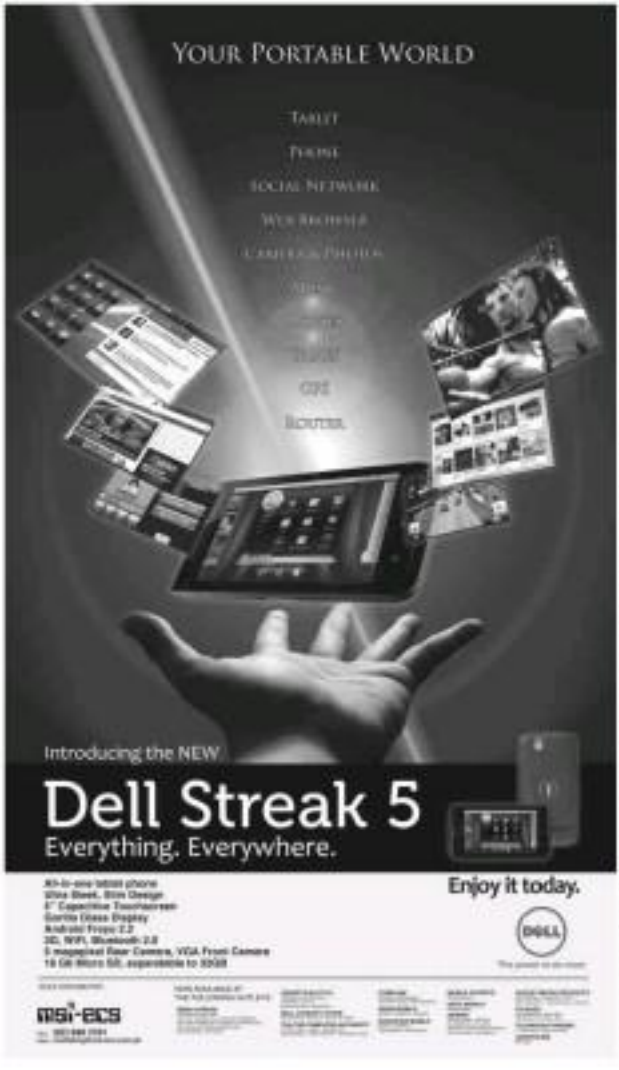
On this surprise visit, only brothers Andal Jr., Sajid and Anwar, and their nephew Akmad were in the cell while Andal Sr. and Zaldy were at the clinic.

Their jailers insisted they were not being given VIP treatment, pointing out that the ammunitions in their cell, including an electric fan, TV, water dispenser and a toilet, were standard in prison facilities across the country.

Robredo said he would observe judgment on the annulment. The results of his department's probe of alleged special treatment, according to Ampatuan meals by Mangudadatu, will likely come out on Friday, he said.

Not even Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Director Ricardo Diel knows of his 6 a.m. inspection, according to Robredo, who had earlier ordered the relief of jail warden Chief Insp. Ghenrisel Saldeptan and his subordinates.

Saldeptan's replacement, Capt. Jesus Edward Rebredo, arrived the compound.



Journalists' charges vs governor junked

By JB Deveza
Inquirer Mindanao

CALAMBA DE ORO CITY—The northern Mindanao prosecution office has dismissed the kidnapping, robbery and physical injury charges filed by four former journalists against Camiguin Gov. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo and another local politician for insufficiency of evidence.

In a resolution dated May 23 but made available early over the weekend, a panel of three prosecutors dismissed the complaint filed by Herbert Rhiden Dumagsing, former Hugo Dumagsing Agro Lobico and Shifron Calvarez against Romualdo and Camiguin Vice Governor Nestor Jaime.

The four accused Romualdo and Jaime of robbery, kidnapping, grave threats, physical injuries and violation of the Omnibus Election Code, particularly on the carrying of firearms during an election period.

The complainants said they were mauled by supporters of Romualdo after they were caught taking video of what they claimed were incidents of vote-buying by Romualdo's allies in the town during last year's elections.

They also said they were detained and some of their belonging were forcibly taken from them.

The four were then working for BB Productions, which has brought anytime from local TV stations to cover the elections.

The northern Mindanao prosecutor's office took over the case after the complainants requested a change of venue from Region Camiguin, citing Romualdo's influence.

In dismissing the complaint, the regional prosecutor's office said the complainants failed to present evidence to support the accusations against Romualdo and Jaime.

In the resolution, which was signed by deputy regional prosecutor Eldred Cole, senior assistant regional prosecutor Merlynn Bautista-Lily and assistant regional prosecutor Irene Alejado-Mesa, the regional prosecutor's office also questioned the credibility of the complainants, saying "legitimate media would not let themselves be paid(.) six late for they are supposed to be neutral."

Mr. Presidential was allegedly financed by a rival of Romualdo's.

Former Erap mouthpiece hit with ₱1-M libel suit

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—Food Quality Protection Advocates (Philippines) president Raymundo Arnaiz has filed a ₱1-million libel suit against Sinaloan information officer Margarita Salcedo for allegedly saying that he and his group were out to ruin Binalonan, the Land Transportation Office's exclusive provider of information technology services.

He said the "libelous article" of Salcedo, former spokesperson of deposed President Joseph Estrada, came out in several newspapers on May 13 and claimed that "Arnaiz and his advocacy group were only playing at hosts" to visit Binalonan.

Salcedo, speaking for Binalonan, was quoted in the news report as saying: "We feel that the motives of the complainant in filing the (plunder) case should be known. With the recent attack by the Ombudsman Samboda group on the Land Transportation Office (LTO) facility last Dec. 9, 2010, we feel that the filing of the plunder case is part of a concerted effort by those previously identified as adversely affecting down the company (Binalonan)."

Salcedo's statement referred to the ₱2.2-billion plunder case that Erap filed on April 27 in the Office of the Ombudsman against Binalonan officers and directors over the "questionable" interconnectivity fees the company has collected from insurance companies and private emission testing centers.

Arnaiz's complaint filed in the Laguna prosecutor's office last year on Thursday said that in Salcedo's statement cast alleged his credibility as they imputed that he was not a true advocate.

In an interview on Friday, Arnaiz denied that his group was hosting the antiradio transmission with no interest in Binalonan.

He said that although Erap was recently incarcerated, the advocacy group had championed the interest of road users for over a decade now and was recognized by the Toll Regulatory Board and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Binalonan is entangled in a corporate dispute between its present management under Cesar Quisumbing and the faction of businessman Adolfo "Pipoy" and Soledilla.

On Friday, Salcedo refused to comment on the case filed by Arnaiz, saying that she had yet to receive a copy of the charges.

"But as a personal policy, when I speak for any principal—whether former President Erap, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo, DOF Usec. Romualdo or other personalities—I always make sure my statements are based on the truth, on hard evidence or factual observations," she said in a text message.

Soldiers get nice homes on PA's initiative

THE PHILIPPINE Army (PA) said it had used revenue from its golf course and clubhouse facilities to build 50 housing units worth a total of P70 million for its retired officers and soldiers.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Arturo Ortiz on Monday formally turned over the five newly constructed 10-door apartments inside the Fort Bonifacio Army headquarters to 40 officers and 10 enlisted personnel who would occupy them along with their families.

Each apartment has two stories, three bedrooms and an attic and a total floor space of 150 square meters. Each unit cost P1.4 million.

Ortiz said the housing project was funded from Philippine Army trust receipts and other internally generated savings. Trust receipts represent earnings from the Army golf course, clubhouse and gym facilities.

"In this time, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is getting fat right and left over the issue of funds (release). So it's important that we show that through their prudence and management, the Army was able to put up housing projects without additional funding from the government," Ortiz said in Filipino.

The contract was awarded in a public bidding in Philbrooks Construction and Supply in 2009. Construction was supervised by the Army's combat engineers.

Ortiz said they expect to finish the construction of five more 10-door apartment buildings in October.

The Army aims to construct a total of 28 units of 10-door apartments in Army camps nationwide.

One of the recipients was Lt. Col. Leodevic Guiniel, a 42-year old veteran of the Mindanao campaign. The father of six said his current home has only two rooms.

Under the Army's terms, 1/10th a month would be deducted from their pay for their new homes. Dona Z. Pazzibugan

OFWS ON OUR MIND Overseas Filipino workers and their families are the recipients of a wide array of perks from the Ayala Group of Companies through the Pilipino Program that was launched on May 29 at Glorietta 5-be, Ground1, Ayala Land president Bernardo Ramirez, Vice President Jaime Bisog, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Ayala Land Chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala. OFWs and their families may avail themselves of privileges and services from the Ayala Group of Companies at the Pilipino Lounge at Glorietta, Trillium, Market Market, Alabang Town Center, MarQuee Mall, Ayala Center Cebu and Abreeza Mall in Davao.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

MAY 31 (Tuesday)
Psalter: Proper
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
Among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.
Lectionary: Aug I: 3-6, 16a, Lect Sem I 619-630

Cry out with joy, O daughter of Zion; for, lo, O people of Israel! I'm coming to live with all you, daughter of Jerusalem! Yahweh has lifted the sentence against you and turned away enemies' army. Yahweh, the King of Israel is with you; do not fear any misfortune.

On that day they will say to Jerusalem: Do not be afraid nor let your hands tremble; for Yahweh your God is within you, Yahweh, mighty warrior. He will jump for joy on seeing you, for he has revived his love, for you he will cry out with joy, as you do in the days of the feast. I will drive away any evil I've caused you about, and you will no longer be shamed.

Gospel: Lk 1:39-56

Mary then set out for a town in the hills of Judah. She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with holy spirit, and giving a loud cry, said, "You are most blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! How is it that the mother of my Lord comes to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby within me suddenly leapt for joy. Blessed are you who believed that the Lord's word would come true!" And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit exults in God my savior
for he looked upon his servant in her lowliness;
and people forever will call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me,
Holy is his Name!
From age to age his mercy extends
on those who fear him.
He has acted with power and done wonders,
and scattered the proud and their plans.
He has put down the mighty from their thrones
and lifted up those who are downtrodden.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has held out his hand to Israel, his servant,
for he remembered his mercy,
even as he promised our fathers,
Abraham and his descendants forever."

Reflection:

What a momentous encounter. Two women blessed, pregnant by the will of God not and shared their joy to one another. The other a young, on the threshold of a future still unfolded but full of possibilities. The other had been married for years but gave up on expecting in life when God took her barrenness away. We admire and enjoy Elizabeth and her thanksgiving to God with quite reverence. We younger and dynamic Mary do have a song of power of substance that is still echo through eternity. Two simple women changed the course of history. For it is in us the lowly and humble also God manifests most his strength.

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P-Noy lets go of Diokno as BuCor director

From page A1

ies welcomed Diokno's decision to quit his post, saying it was "the most honorable and selfless way to address the issue."

As of Friday, a list of 5 consolidation, Sr. Linus said she has finding panel, which is tasked into the liability of BuCor officials in connection with the May 10 "prison break" of Lovinio, did not recommend the filing of any criminal charges against Diokno.

"That resignation is actually expected ... It's an ethical call, you know," she told reporters.

Sr. Linus said Diokno's act saved the government from having to go through a tedious legal process concerning the issue of VIP treatment of influential prisoners.

"If he did not resign, there will be greater pressure coming from some quarters. They will not spare the Palace and the Office of the President," she said.

10 others face raps

Sr. Linus said the fact-finding committee suggested the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Lovinio's cardinal guard, Faustino Aceto.

In his testimony before the panel, Aceto denied that he had connived to Lovinio's unauthorized trips outside the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa City.

A news television camera caught Lovinio near his Makati office. He claimed he had left prison on an emergency furlough as he was suffering from a hot flashes.

Justice Undersecretary Francisco Baraan III, who supervised the panel's inquiry, said at least 10 other BuCor officials would be charged with administrative charges. He declined to identify them.

"Let's wait for our report to be released by Wednesday. But there is no recommendation as to the criminal liability of those [in Diokno's]," Sr. Linus said.

Diokno's 'delicadeza'

Diokno's resignation was the latest of a series of departures from the 11-month-old Aquino administration.

In August last year, Ms. Aquino ousted Pagasa weather bureau administrator Prisco Nilo after the agency's "easy off" the mark" flaw out of the path of Typhoon "Basyang."

In November, Thomas Tadeo, secretary Ramon Ramon III resigned over the controversial "Hacienda Luisita massacre" and subsidies. The President thanked Diokno "for his service and for his delicadeza for resigning."

He said Diokno's resignation saved her time for reforms he wanted to implement in the correctional system.

Ties with Diokno

Ms. Aquino also said his administration had made it clear from the very start that being in the government "requires loyalty and responsibility."

He vowed the Lovinio cases would be reviewed so as to correct prison regulations.

Ms. Aquino said he knew Diokno since early high school days when the deputy chief of the Philippine Public District.

"We go a long way. He was still a at climbing with us during the coup," the President said, referring to the coup attempt by rebel Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan that Ms. Aquino had withstood while pregnant.

"I told him I was depending on you there. That's why I put you there. You were my eyes, ears, you were supposed to act on the policies," he said.

Ms. Aquino said Mr. Said he felt "some compassion" for Diokno as the latter took on a big job and had gathered a lot of jobbiness at BuCor, including the "living cost" status given to some prisoners.

The President said he asked Dr. Linus if there was indeed a living-out regulation at the NBP and was told that there seemed to be such an arrangement in the "old normal."

But he said the current administration had unilaterally say living-out provisions. "In effect, this meant, instead of a regulation, that would depend on the liking of the director of BuCor," he said.

This was what confronted Diokno at BuCor, Ms. Aquino said.

Boss' form of apology

Ms. said his conversation with Diokno "boiled down to one question."

"I told him, 'How should I put directional this?' If you know that were happening, why did you not act on it? If you did not know about it, how can I replace you did not know?'" Ms. Aquino said.

The President said now was the time to look for a BuCor chief that could push for reforms immediately.

Asked whether Diokno apologized to him, the President said he thought Diokno felt bad about what happened.

"His act of resigning is the best form of apology," Ms. Aquino said.

He also said Diokno "recognized" that the Lovinio report was a "blow" to the administration.

Dr. Linus said the four-briefing panel's 26-page report included an eight-page cover memorandum which contained his own additional recommendations.

"But I adopted all the findings and recommendations of the panel," she said. With a report from Miko Mercado

MALACAÑANG Bureau of Correctional Director Dyosdado Diokno

Cigarette health warnings push smokers to quit

WASHINGTON—Warnings on cigarette packets about the dangers of tobacco have been effective in pushing smokers in the Philippines and a dozen other countries to kick the habit, according to a study released last week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Said graphic images depicting human suffering have been the most effective tool in making smokers quit, the CDC study found.

Nearly all adult smokers in countries where a World Health Organization (WHO) convention requires health warnings on tobacco products noticed the health warnings.

And more than half of smokers in six of 14 countries in the study said the warnings made them think about quitting.

In the remaining eight countries, with the exception of Poland, more than one in four current respondents said the warning labels had prompted them to consider kicking the habit, according to the study.

For the study, researchers analyzed findings of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey based on data collected between 2008 and 2010 for smokers in the Philippines, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay and Vietnam.

The researchers found that health warnings that stood out prominently on the package and used pictures, graphics in describing the harmful effects of smoking were most likely to get someone to consider quitting.

Graphic warnings are only much smokers who cannot read but they also evoke an emotional response from a smoker and motivate them to quit, according the CDC study.

The study noted that Brazil and Thailand—which both had "numerous prominent and graphic pictorial warnings in color"—also had some of the highest rates of smokers thinking about quitting because of the warnings.

But for reasons that are still unclear, there were also a high number of smokers in Bangladesh and Vietnam who thought about quitting even if the health warnings in these countries were text or graphic.

The CDC mainly use the findings research in determining how many smokers who think about quitting because of a warning on a packet actually do.

The US agency also wants to find out what are the other issues that motivate smokers to stop smoking.

According to the WHO, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and is estimated to kill more than 5 million people a year worldwide, mostly in low- and middle-income countries.

The WHO considers health warnings on cigarette packets a keystone in combating the global tobacco epidemic, along with price increases, smoke-free policies and advertising and sponsorship bans. AFP

PA SORRY Boyet displays "Cigarettes silencing brother" on his chest, head during a campaign against smoking in Cubao, Quezon City, Saturday as all by the hot is grave concern to avoid smoking in public places, particularly in schools and areas frequented by children. YOY SUMAGAYSAY

PH joins world in observance of No Tobacco Day

From page A1

role in the campaign, Health Undersecretary Teodoro Herbosa said in a press conference yesterday.

"They can tell smokers, 'Please go away,' because it is everybody's business," Herbosa said.

Herbosa urged all smokers to abstain for 24 hours from all forms of tobacco consumption.

"If they can't do that and if they're going to smoke, they should look for a safe place to perpetuate their bad habit," Herbosa said, adding that smokers must be mindful at least today of their neighbors who may inhale secondhand smoke.

Local ordinances

Health experts have warned that secondhand smoke is as dangerous as direct smoking, causing the same diseases such as lung cancer and cardiovascular and other respiratory diseases.

The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) says many of their it would ever be implementing in July a Metro-wide ban on smoking in public places.

But the 16 cities and one municipality comprising Metro Manila already have their own ordinances banning smoking in public places, MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino said.

"The apprehensions of violators has been ongoing [in those places] since they already have their own ordinances," Tolentino told reporters.

Valenzuela City is the only local government in Metro Manila without an ordinance penalizing smoking in public places, but it is expected to pass an ordinance this week.

Major roads

MMDA officials have said they will use the month of June to conduct an information campaign on the new ordinance by distributing fact leaflets making smokers in July on major roads under its jurisdiction.

Tolentino said he wished that the ordinance would be implemented "effectively, efficiently, and humanely."

"I don't want violators to be treated like criminals," he said.

But he said the current measures did not include any "living out" provisions. "In effect, this meant, instead of a regulation, that would depend on the liking of the director of BuCor," he said.

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After Malta vote, House body tackles divorce bill

From page A1

years of separation.

Separation widespread

Legal separation is widespread in the European Union's smallest member state, but there are many legal obstacles to remarrying.

The Church, which hosts large over the archipelago where 95 percent of the population claims the faith, did not campaign officially in the referendum.

However, Valletta's Archbishop Paul Cremona had warned churchgoers in a letter they faced a choice between building and destroying family values.

"By this vote, the citizen will either build or destroy. A choice in favor of permanent marriage is an act of faith in the family, built upon a bond of love which cannot be severed," said the letter, which was read out at Masses.

In addition, priests have reportedly threatened to refuse communion to those who vote "yes" in the referendum.

Philippine moves

Following the vote in Malta, the Philippines became economic envoy of Iowa announced it would begin on Wednesday discussions on a bill seeking to legalize divorce.

"Let us not keep our country in the dark ages," said Gabriela Rep. Lin Rapsin. "I appeal to my colleagues in Congress to let the legislative mill run to create an On-divorce bill without further delay and give Filipino couples an irreparable and unhappy marriages this option."

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, a widower, said separation that he favored the move. "It is very difficult in his two people who cannot live together continue to live together."

Expand annulment

Sen. Pia Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on justice, women and family relations, said it was time to expand the definition of annulment of marriage granted under Philippine law on grounds of psychological incapacity.

"Call it divorce, call it another animal [but] there has to be some change because the reality is, it is one of the discriminatory practices we have (against women)," she said.

But Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III is adamant: "Let's not get into the habit of copying what other countries are doing."

Not a question of votes

The Philippine Catholic hierarchy, reiterating the position of the Church in Malta, remained that it would oppose any attempt to introduce divorce in the country through a referendum as the Mediterranean country did.

"Referendums are merely a political, not a moral exercise," said Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, head of the bishops' Episcopal Commission on Family and Life.

"What is right or wrong is not dependent on how many voted for it," said Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz, judicial vicar of the National Appellate Matrimonial Tribunal. "What is moral or not moral is not a question of popular vote."

Cruz is happy that the Philippines remains to be the only country without divorce.

"It means that the Filipino culture and values are still solid, that we are profoundly, which is a wonder because your cousins find elsewhere else in the world," he said. *With reports from AFP Cynthia D. Balana, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christian V. Esguerra and Jocelyn R. Uy*

UNBORN CHILD BILL Sen. Pia S. Cayetano, head of the committee on youth, women and family relations, confers with Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Vicente Sotto III during a hearing on several Senate bills seeking to protect the rights of unborn children.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Tribes ask SC to stop Surigao mining

By Marlon Ramos

A COALITION of tribal groups in Surigao provinces yesterday petitioned the Supreme Court to stop the operations of five Chinese mining companies whose open-pit nickel mining activities have allegedly polluted bodies of water, destroyed rich marine resources and caused illnesses to residents in the area.

In their petition for a writ of kalikasan, the petitioners led by the Tribal Coalition of Mindanao Inc. (Tricom) asked the high court to immediately issue a temporary environmental protection order, the equivalent of a temporary restraining order in criminal cases.

They also asked the magistrates to nullify all environmental permits and agreements to prevent further destruction purportedly caused by the open-pit mining activities in Surigao province.

"We are appealing to the Supreme Court to help us save our lands, our water and our people from the destructive mining operations of these Chinese companies," Victoriano Halal, the group's spokesperson, told reporters after filing the 22-page petition.

"The government must quickly act on this problem and help us revive the once-thriving mangroves and coral reefs in Surigao. We should move now to save other people from suffering disease," Halal continued.

Named respondents in the petition were Taganito Mining Corp., Thames Group Metals Corp., Oriental Synergy Mining Corp., Global Alumina Group Corp. and Marcventure Mining and Development Corp.

Also asked to explain on the issue were Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples regional director Alfin Francisco Jr., Environmental Management Bureau regional officer Emir Olandres and the provincial governments of Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte.

In their petition, the group claimed the mining firms "deliberately failed" to build retentive sedimentation and siltation dams to prevent the siltation of bodies of water near the mining operations in Cleary, Surigao del Norte and the towns of Carmen and Cantilan in Surigao del Sur.

Instead of building safety barriers, the tribal groups lamented that the respondents used the spaces of rivers and creeks in the area as "nickel extended siltation dams." They said the mining firms also used the bodies of water as "place for nickel mesh piles."

Because of this, they said at least nine major rivers straddling a 56-kilometer portion of the area became silted, with orange-colored deposits found to river banks.

"Thus, respondents mining companies' irresponsible and illegal mining operations inevitably resulted in the utilization or pollution of coastal waters ... irreversibly damaged marine resources ... and created serious health problems (to the petitioners)," the group said.

They added: "Hundreds who ate fish and shells ... caught within the river mouth from the coastal waters ... suffered diffculties in breathing, skin rashes, vomiting and intestinal problems."

The tribal groups also accused the Chinese firms of desecrating their burial grounds, prayer areas, sacred mountains, hunting grounds and other places considered as cultural heritage areas.

"Respondent mining companies have already profited even without obtaining a free, prior and informed consent from the tribes," they said.

They said Paje and other environment officials "simply closed their eyes" to the mining firms' violations and disregarded the complaints they reportedly filed before the concerned government officers.

"Unfortunately, herein public respondents have purposely disregarded the petitioners' and tribes' legitimate concerns affecting the environment," they said.

'Mameng' threatened by damaged Bakud Reef

SLAMU, Sarangani Province— The coal ship incident that damaged the Bakud Reef in Gumbo town continues to threaten the survival of various fish species, including the endangered Napoleon wrasse (Cheilinus undulatus), marine experts said.

According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Napoleon wrasse, locally known as mameng, occurs patchily in the Indo-Pacific region and is one of the two most highly valued fish in the luxury live reef fish trade on reef kilograms basis.

Noted as the largest living member of the Labridae family, male mameng can reach up to two meters in length.

"It is a WWF priority species. It is endemic, WWF claimed it is many priority species as one of the most ecologically, economically and or culturally important species in our area," WWF-Philippines said in a statement.

Dr. Chris Nebrida Jr. of the University of the Philippines said in a recent email to provincial legal officer Israel Jaguros, that Bakud Reef and other "exotic reefs in Mindoro are one of the most productive reefs in the country with estimated fish biomass falls on the high category at 22 to 40 metric tons per square kilometers."

Also, the municipal planning and development office of Elizardo said "schools of rabbitfish and mackerel scad, among others (including Mameng (Napoleon wrasse)."

Nebrida said the recovery of the damaged reef could take time, maybe up to 50 years, and then would allow how fish species survive there.

The Bakud Reef, which is over Kilometer off Kumbo, sustained damage when the Dimitrakonis, registered MV Double Prosperity, struck a corner the size of a basketball, pleased on it on March 6.

Its all Filipino crew told investigators they miscalculated their navigational route.

But Gov. Miguel Dominguez said it would be more than just miscalculation.

He said the crew might have been trying to pickup cleaner television signal to watch the Pacquiao-Mosley fight when the incident took place.

Meanwhile, the mayor ship could be finally released before Wednesday and Friday, the Coast Guard said.

Subaga master Ismail Sammudin of the Malay Towage Co. said high-tide could happen by then and it would hasten the floating of the ship.

"We are going to unload 8,000 metric tons of coal then transfer it to a chartered ship and a barge to lighten the vessel," Sammudin said.

The ship's water ballasts had already been emptied and preserved in order to add buoyancy particularly at the bow of the ship, he said. Agaths F. Zosa, Inquirer Mindanao

Pampanga city shares 'suman' on feast day

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO... Residents here shared 2,000 pieces of "suman" (native rice cake) on the 207th feast day of the patron saint of this Pampanga capital yesterday to highlight one of the top products of the city.

As six or seven inches each, wrapped in "dahon" (coconut frond leaves) and laid end to end on tables, the native snack stretched a kilometer long between the City Hall and the Hermogenian Cathedral at 7 a.m., city tourism officer Ching Pangilinan said.

By 8 a.m., when the cathedral bells sounded off prayers from for the Mass, Mayor Oscar Rodriguez led city employees in handing two pieces of suman to every resident, many of them children, who lined up to get their share.

Rustic Santiago, 73, took her share before entering the church.

"Giving out suman is a simple way of celebrating our fiesta. We should thank Apung Fernando Dalisi Sr.(dated 12 of Castille) for starting our very city and making us rich," Santiago said.

Rodriguez said the native rice cake is made to shine in this feast to celebrate the hard work of suman makers.

The native snack's ingredients are simple. There are 100 kilograms of freshly squeezed coconut milk, 200 kg of glutinous rice, and 5 kg of salt, said Marcelo Asuncion, the event's suman maker.

It took 15 workers about 48 hours, or roughly two days cooking the suman by mixing the ingredients, boiling them to perfection and blending suman using large wooden ladles to draw the, mantra said.

"Sorting the right consistency and taste takes time. We were at most sleepless," she said.

It entailed 30 bundles of fronds sourced from Quezon and western Pampanga, to wrap small amounts of the cooked glutinous rice.

In Asuncion's village, there are no longer that the homegrown industry is dying. Purok Nanas in Barangay San Pedro Cutud, also known for its Cheiomas lanzones and real-life crucifixion has more than 50 families of budding native weavers, making suman wrappers and other products.

Asuncion, 33, learned making suman from her mother, Perla Cunanan.

"She required us children to help in the cooking when we were still in elementary school," Asuncion said.

She had to take over the years ago when her mother had to rest following a heart attack.

"We've tried but we're very happy when we see that many people are enjoying the suman. Our budget is gone," she said.

Suman making, as an industry, is shared by San Pedro Cutud with its border village, Cabalantian in Bacolor town. Like those in Cabalantian, suman makers in San Pedro Cutud also trade cassava and various kinds of suman from corn and cassava.

Tamales is made of ground rice steamed in a thick syrup of banana leaves and topped with peanut sauce and shredded lean or chicken or boiled egg.

Suman-making gives jobs to neighbors because it requires many intensive human materials can save more than 1500 a day.

Despite quick serving hamburgers and hotdogs, Aurelia said suman achieves because it "tastes hunger quickly." It is also a delicacy for environment because the wrapper is natural and biodegradable, she said.

Roberto Ovejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

SUMAN. a native snack popular in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, is shared by the city government to mostly children during the feast day of San Fernando III of Castille on Monday.

HOMETOWN Snapshot

House probe of Luisita toll collection sought

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— Assemblyman Rep. Rafael Mariano has asked the House committee on transportation to investigate Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) for its alleged illegal collection of fees from motorists using a road in the town owned by the family of Senate minority leader Juan Ponce Enrile Jr.

Mariano sought the investigation through House Resolution No. 1039 that he filed on Monday.

Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., one of the owners of the HLI and an aside of President Aquino, said Arroyo said and Mariano have no basis to said for a probe.

Mariano's call came a day ahead of a meeting set by the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) today (Tuesday, May 31) among representatives of HLI, Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and motorists, said TRB spokesperson Julius Corpus.

The TRB, said Corpus, was scheduled to conduct a public probe and cooperate to come up with an immediate resolution to the issue.

"What basis will they give this time? That's a private road," Cojuangco said by telephone on Monday.

The fees (P30 for cars, P50 for vans and smaller delivery trucks, and P100 for trucks and buses) are for the road's maintenance and repair, he said in previous interviews.

Cojuangco was referring to the 5.8 kilometer San Miguel access road that HLI built and extended by 2.5 km in 2008. This road is connected to the 1.1 km Luisita interchange of the SCTEx in Tarlac City.

The road is not part of the 80 hectares that BCDA bought from HLI to give SCTEx right-of-way, said BCDA president and CEO Arnel Casanova.

Stretching almost 94 km, the SCTEx was built by the government using P34.106 billion, mostly from two loans from the Japanese government.

But the San Miguel access road, Casanova said, is for "public use" since that was the commitment of Cojuangco's eldest brother, Jose, president of HLI, to then BCDA president Narciso Abaya in an April 2006 letter.

Casanova said the BCDA agreed to put the Luisita interchange once the HLI property is connect the Luisita Industrial Park in the Clark Special Economic Zone by through the SCTEx.

"We welcome all actions by our government officials so that the public may understand the issue and the HLI can explain its basis for collecting fees," Casanova said by telephone on Monday.

The HLI put up billboards announcing the collection of "service fees" weeks before it began collecting them on May 17.

Cojuangco said the TRB has no jurisdiction over the San Miguel access road since it is a private road.

In the resolution, Mariano said the Mabuhay Maghahalad ng Pilipinas (MMP) has called the HLI act as "arbitrary and illegal and tantamount to corruption."

HLI is 33 percent owned by farm workers in the more than 6,000 hectares Hacienda Luisita.

The Tarlac Development Corp., controlled by the Cojuangco family, owns 67 percent of HLI. The late former President Corazon Aquino, Mr. Aquino's mother, is a member of the Cojuangco clan.

Ten separate disputes in the sugar estate have been pending at the Supreme Court since 1995.

Cojuangco said farmers, residents and farmers enjoy free use of the San Miguel access road.

In a statement, DMP said Batangas Rep. Hermilando Mandanas, chair of the House committee on ways and means, has received reports that HLI only issues cards, not receipts, for payment of fees.

Cojuangco said this matter is being discussed with village leaders. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Romblon execs urge P-Noy to stop Sibuyan mine contract

By Marlon Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOCAL executives and anti-mining groups in Romblon are asking President Aquino to revoke a contract that allowed nickel mining in the province's Sibuyan island, saying it was another "midnight deal" signed during the previous administration.

The contract refers to the 25-year Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) the government signed with the then Philippine Mining Corp. (APMC) and its subsidiary Sibuyan Nickel Properties Development Corp. (SNPDC) in 2009.

The only approved mining permit on Sibuyan Island, the province's largest, the exploration for nickel of over 1,700 hectares in San Fernando, one of the three towns on the island.

San Fernando Mayor Claudio Rios, in a phone interview on Friday said they have been opposing the MPSA saying it was a "midnight deal" that was signed only a few days before former Environment Secretary Lito Atienza stepped down from office and to the mayor of Manila in the 2010 elections.

No endorsement

The Sibuyan Island Seminole League for Environment/Sibuyanons Against Mining (Sibuyanon ISLE-SAM), in a separate statement, also lamented that the contract was signed "without any endorsement from the barangay level."

At the time of its approval, the MPSA was not even endorsed by the municipal government because the company failed to submit requirements formally requested by the municipal council, said the Sibuyanon ISLE-SAM.

"We already were opposed [other] directly to President Aquino] and [we were] convinced through the CBCP (Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines)," Rios said.

Anti-mining advocate Gina Lopez had also visited the island twice in the past month's campaign to persuade residents to keep large-scale mining off Sibuyan.

Rios, however, said they had not received any response from Malacañang yet, but "we are pretty sure the President will heed the people's call, just like what he had done before he cancelled the mining applications in Palawan."

Rolando de Jesus, director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geoscience Bureau (DENR) in Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) clarified that SNPDC's permit was only for exploration...the first of the five stage mining operation.

"[The company] had not even started exploring yet because of the [coal] opposition," he said. With a report from Madonna Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Arrest warrant sought against Zambales mayor

IBA/MASINLOC/OLONGAPO CITY—A Zambales prosecutor has asked the regional trial court to issue an arrest warrant against San Marcelino Mayor Jose Rodriguez due to his non-appearance in hearings and his insistence to travel abroad despite a court-issued travel ban.

Rodriguez is facing child abuse and trafficking charges in connection with the alleged rape of a 12-year-old girl last year.

In a motion filed before Judge Socorro Pointfort on May 27, Joy Bayona, assistant provincial prosecutor, said they feared that Rodriguez may have either left the country or is in hiding.

"Considering that [Rodriguez] did not appear during [a May 26] hearing despite being required by the honorable court to do so, there is, in fact, a reasonable concern that he is no longer in the country and/or has gone into hiding," she said.

Bayona asked the court to order the cancellation and forfeiture of the cash bonds posted by Rodriguez and to issue a warrant for his arrest.

In an order on May 18, Pointfort said an invitation to Rodriguez or guest and speaker in a May 20 dinner and dance event in Lemon Grove, Calif., Iberia, was "unfit, moot to establish the probability that [Rodriguez] will leave the country."

RODRIGUEZ

Pointfort also ordered that a copy of the travel ban be issued for sent to the Bureau of Immigration.

But Marie Natasha Cruz, Rodriguez's lawyer, filed an urgent motion asking the court to allow Rodriguez to travel "for a speaking engagement before his constituents who are now residing abroad."

"[Rodriguez] is requesting that he be permitted to an 11-day stay in the United States," the motion said.

The court denied Rodriguez's motion.

Documents showed that Rodriguez had secured an electronic ticket from Philippine Airlines for a flight on May 25. He also secured on May 10 a permission to travel from Zambales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., covering a 15-day period, and had filed for a vacation leave.

Asked whether Rodriguez has left the country, Cruz, on Monday, said: "The mayor is in the Philippines. He is doing his job as the mayor of San Marcelino."

Absences of the San Marcelino town hall said they saw Rodriguez in the town on Friday. But, an official said, the mayor did not attend the flag ceremony at the town hall on Monday.

Reports said it was Rodriguez's son, Jaime Jun Jun Rodriguez, who represented the mayor in the event in the US.

Cruz did not reply to the Inquirer's follow-up questions on the mayor's whereabouts. But in an earlier interview, she said it was impossible for Rodriguez to be present in every hearing because as an elected official, he needs to attend to his responsibilities in running the affairs of his town.

Rodriguez's absences from the May 26 hearing prompted the prosecution to seek his arrest.

"It is most respectfully manifested that such non-appearance of the accused constitutes blatant disregard, unjustifiable disobedience and clear defiance of the explicit directive issued given by the honorable court," Bayona said.

She said a few days after the court issued a hold departure order, the dispatch filed an "urgent motion to allow work-related (international travel," which "confirms the very grounds raised by the prosecution ... that the accused was indeed intending to put himself beyond the jurisdiction of the honorable court."

She said Rodriguez "had not been candid and truthful" in the court because his lawyer had argued "that a mere invitation does not necessarily mean that [Rodriguez] had already accepted the invitation and had intentions to attend the overseas affair."

Rodriguez's actions, Bayona said, showed "bad faith."

In January, Rodriguez was arraigned in the sala of Judge Richard Paradeses and pleaded innocent to the charge of violation of the Anti-Child Abuse Act (Republic Act No. 7610).

Bayona filed an amended charge against Rodriguez after Paradeses dismissed the trafficking charges under Section 6 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (RA 9208).

In her amended charge, Bayona cited Section 11 of RA 9208 for "use of trafficked persons."

Rodriguez had posted bail. In an earlier statement, he denied the charges and said the case filed by the girl and her mother was meant to destroy his reputation and ruin "political career" in the town.

Rodriguez said he was on his way to Manila on Sept. 12 last year, the day he supposedly raped the girl.

Bayona also cited Jaime Dennis, also known as "Bodie," for bringing the girl to the mayor's residence in San Marcelino where the alleged rape took place. Pastor is facing charges of violating RA 9208 and RA 7610. *Robert Conanga, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

John Hay developer given up to today to pay debts

BAGUIO CITY—The developer of Camp John Hay here has been given until May 31 to settle its obligations in the city government or face expulsion, Mayor Mauricio Domogan said on Wednesday.

In a news briefing, Domogan said he was informed by Baguio Convention and Development Authority (BCDA) officials that the 58 hectare-owned Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) has to remit P272,183,662.38 in rental arrears.

He said BCDA wanted CJHDevco a final demand letter on April 29.

In a May 3 statement, Dean Santiago, BCDA vice president for planning and business development, said "the BCDA has virtually exhausted all options for a mutually acceptable solution to the deadlock" with CJHDevco, including three restructuring agreements over a nine-year period "to settle its P2.4 billion arrears to the government."

But in a May 27 statement, CJHDevco said it withheld payments and transferred the rent to an escrow account "not as a matter of right but as a gesture of good faith."

The company said the latest restructuring deal obliged BCDA to create "a fully-functioning One-Stop Action Center with full authority to process and issue all developmental permits."

But it said BCDA failed "to issue on time the much needed building permits of the Camp John Hay Suites (which is currently under construction) and delayed for no justifiable reason the issuance of the required registration for the hotel to enjoy its tax benefits."

Domogan said Public Works Secretary Bagtiel Dangwas had informed him that the whole Hyatt Special Economic Zone must get its building permits from City Hall.

Since 2005, the Philippine Export Zone Authority (which oversees the nearby Baguio City Export Processing Zone, had been preventing CJHDevco's building permits.

CJHDevco said: "[We are] not delinquent in [our] rental obligations under existing agreements... its good business practice, CJHDevco should be treated as a business partner and should be shielded from unnecessary, misleading and baseless charges of delinquency from no less than a partner in development."

Domogan said: "If CJHDevco does not comply, we are going into arbitration and we don't want that to happen."

The city government's stake in the property includes its water facilities.

It bought the Baguio Convention Center from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in 2003 for P250 million, most paying its payments against its 25 percent share from CJHDevco's rent.

BCDA paid an initial P561 million to seal the deal. The city government authorized the BCDA to remit seven years worth of rent to GSIS, but payments were never made because of legal and financial problems between BCDA and CJHDevco.

GSIS almost took back the conversion center in 2010.

During an executive session last week, BCDA provided Domogan with a financial report which showed that CJHDevco arrears and unpaid interest payments had caused the city government's obligation to GSIS to balloon from the original P200 million to P561 million.

CJHDevco said it "mutually agreed to restructure" its obligations to BCDA "for a variety of reasons, among which is the [2008] Supreme Court decision nullifying the expiration of tax-and-duty exemptions... within the John Hay Special Economic Zone."

The firm said this "blow was then aggravated when the construction and development inside Camp John Hay virtually stopped" due to a 2008 order from the city government not to process the permits of CJHDevco. *Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luxon*

SQUEEZE pass through these roads on reach Camp John Hay when developer has been given up to today to pay its debt to the Baguio City government.

APEC TRADITIONAL EDUCATION PLAN HOLDERS DESERVE TO KNOW: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE FIVE PERCENT (5%) LEGAL EXPENSES

Recently, it has come to the attention of Pacific Plans, Inc. (PPI) (now APEC Plans, Inc. [APEC]) that our traditional education (PEPTRAD) plan holders are being led to believe that the total payouts being distributed in accordance with the court-approved Modified Rehabilitation Plan were being deducted 5%, supposedly representing the "legal expense" of APEC. To correct the misleading and wrong information being circulated, APEC would like to provide the significant facts to shed light and dispel fears that this issue may have caused our plan holders.

1. The 5% percent amounting to US$1,955,251.60 to be immediately paid by ALL PEPTRAD plan holders is for the alleged attorney's fees of Atty. Evelio C. Pormento, counsel of the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP Coalition), by order of the rehabilitation court, presided by Hon. Judge Cadiock D. Ruiz. This court order has been vigorously opposed by APEC.

2. Atty. Pormento asked the court for the automatic and immediate withholding of the amount equivalent to 5%, or US$1,955,251.60, from the **entire** payouts received/or to be distributed to **ALL** our PEPTRAD plan holders (whether or not members of the PEP Coalition) for his alleged "attorney's fees". APEC vehemently opposed and continues to oppose the move by Atty. Pormento, in representation of the PEP Coalition, to deduct 5% from the payouts to all of our PEPTRAD plan holders, based on serious legal and ethical considerations.

3. In opposing the 5% deduction, APEC questions how Atty. Pormento, who represents only a handful of our plan holders from the PEP Coalition, can be entitled to immediately receive attorney's fees in an exorbitant and mind boggling amount of US$1,955,251.60 or approximately P84,000,900.00, for a few months work. Atty. Pormento began representing the PEP Coalition in the rehabilitation court only in August 2010. In that short span of time, he has submitted but a few pleadings with the court. Worse, Atty. Pormento's fees were ordered to be paid by **ALL PEPTRAD** plan holders even if they have not authorized Atty. Pormento to represent them.

We at APEC have exerted all efforts to give our PEPTRAD plan holders what is rightfully due to them in accordance with the court-approved Modified Rehabilitation Plan.

This statement is being issued as part of our duty to provide our PEPTRAD plan holders with accurate and truthful information, in the spirit of fairness and transparency.

APEC PLANS
The Peak Tower 16th Floor, 107 Levista St. Salcedo Village, Makati

2 turtles caught by Mindoro fishermen released to the sea

By Mateorio Verde
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CITY OF CALAPAN—A 25-kilo female marine turtle was rescued by villagers in an unusual noontime on Sunday in waters off Barangay Balite in this city and released to the sea on Monday morning.

Village Councilor Reymar Dejarde said they confiscated the animal from the fisherman who accidentally caught the turtle in his hook and wanted to butcher it.

"He said he had no catch and upon feel is hooking the animal but we told him it was illegal to do so as the animal was an endangered species," he said.

The turtle, whose carapace measures 25 inches long and 22 inches wide, was described by environment officials as a loggerhead type distinguished mainly by a large head and strong jaws and its shell, which is reddish brown, and noticeably flat in side yellow.

It suffered an injury on the left neck area and was placed on a basin by Dejarde.

Early Monday morning, Dejarde informed the City Fishery Management Office (CFMO) about the catch which in turn immediately contacted the provincial environment and natural resources office which tagged the turtle (PG 04-01).

Its injury was treated with a betadine antiseptic solution before being brought to the open sea and released.

"The moment it reached the water, it disappeared as it swam fast into the sea," said Dejarde.

Mildred Penabon, superintendent at the CFMO, noted that Balite is part of the Verde Island Passage and the Coral Triangle, internationally known for its high marine biodiversity.

On May 25, at around 6:30 a.m., a green turtle, which weighed around 40 kilos, was found stranded in the coastal water off Lazareto village in Barka-Plaza Park municipality area, also in Calapan City and was released into the sea on the same day.

Since the morning news was ready the local residents brought the turtle, through a small boat, to the next coastal village of Bugui where it was eventually set free at around 11 a.m.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Dynastic reflex

EDITORIAL

AGAINST CONVENTIONAL political wisdom, former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco has indicated that she would run for vice governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Neither a Muslim nor a Maguindanao chieftain (although she has taken care of the legal requirements of residency as required), she's an outsider who has the gumption to take on the ARMM big political houses and declare her candidacy. Here is an audacity that defies standard or square calculations—and she is willing to risk it all apparently because she happens to be the aunt of President Aquino.

But Cojuangco has preceded her bold move to declare her candidacy by other politically risky moves such as resigning from the presidency of the National Defense College, the defense establishment's educational institute for security and strategic issues. It boldcver from the government administration, she resigned allegedly in protest of the President's moves to postpone the ARMM election. By declaring that she is running in the election, she defies her nephew and forces him to reconsider. She has portrayed herself as champion of the ARMM and therefore worthy of its second highest post.

In hindsight, her moves are typical of the shadow play of Philippine politics that operates more by seemingly irrational tendencies rather than straight political calculations. Her husband, former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., see political survivors and master shadow players. As members of the majority coalition in the previous administration, they were powerful enough to have won the respect of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo so that the husband was named presidential political adviser while the wife became NDC president. They remained largely in the good graces of the administration even after former President Corazon Aquino rallied on Arroyo to step down in the midst of the "Hello, Garci" scandal. The contradictions of Philippine politics was further revealed years thereafter, while one wing of the Cojuangco clan was leaving steps in the Arroyo presidency, another chose to clasp with the enemy.

Now, Tingting Cojuangco is seemingly taking on the enemy of the enemy she had slept with. But her name for it is spurious antagonism since the President happens to be her husband's nephew, and since Peping was the favorite brother of Cory, wife and husband have an emotional, sentimental pull on him. In short, while looking and acting like an outsider in the Aquino administration, Tingting is really an insider. And she has been playing the political insider's game all along, even when the Cojuangcos were out of power.

But Tingting is not an outsider to ARMM politics. She is a curious example of a recent invention: the "Mindanao-phile," or the Mindanao cognoscente, someone who relishes and prides herself in being an expert on things Mindanao. Armed with a PhD in history from the University of Santo Tomas, she has been studying different aspects of Mindanao culture since the 1980s and publishing academic and popular papers on the subject. During the Cory Aquino era, her influence was instrumental in making Escarlos Canchar the administrative candidate for first ARMM governor and his winning handily.

Conclusive election and the subsequent election of the next ARMM governors indicate that whoever is the Malacañang candidate wins. Tingting is not yet seeking the blessings of Malacañang for her candidacy because she has to make sure that there will be elections in the first place. By refusing herself as a maverick, she positions herself as an outsider. But of course in the end, blood is thicker than water, and Mr. Aquino must be forced to assume more and more the wisdom of his sister.

What we are witnessing is the prevalence of dynastic politics that has historically consumed the Philippines and turned it into the playing field of political clans and houses. It's not exactly Mr. Aquino's fault that some of the most embarrassing issues that have plagued his young presidency have something to do with his clan. The Hacienda Luisita questions, Antonio Cojuangco Jr.'s aiming a bishop not to link the administration to alleged gambling, and flooding Cojuangco winning the coco-levy battle in the Supreme Court. Or is it? No matter: the flexing of muscle by the Cojuangco clan and the return of Ramonmak Inc. may risk further eroding public support for a presidency that is already showing signs of breaking at the seams.

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'Narrowing the disconnect'

VIEWPOINT

Janet L. Mercado

WILL THE 10 million or so overseas Filipino workers redefine the future of our grandchildren?

Self-through "Exceptional People," suggests Isabel Allende from Hong Kong. The new Princeton University book Boom, Bust, Bust lists the flow of people is reshaping that future.

Roughly 8,572 Filipinos bolted in 2009 alone. It has been estimated that one-of-every 10 Filipinos is abroad. Their incident and illegals make sullen debuts. Besides, like the "Sudi Spring," rare jobs flows overnight.

So might 8,572 Filipinos bolt daily? Viewpoint overall replies. "There 20 times the first month of mind engineer who left five decades back... The demographic youth bulge is evident. Many are between 25 and 44 years old, had 20 consecutive 1300-hour college degree."

Their remittances totaled to $21.3 billion last year—up from $14.4 billion in 2007. Yet spaces are the world's fourth highest remittances, after Indiana, Greece and Ukrainians. The cash has still to narrow the pervasive conduct poverty.

"The average Filipino household's per capita consumption is far smaller than it was a century ago," says "Exceptional People" authors Ian Goldin, Geoff Cameron and Meera Balarajan.

Per capita (gross domestic product as per chasing power parity) stalled at less than Jamaica, Ireland, Malaysia, Peru, Jamaica, Philippines—$3,737. Thailand—$9,107. Singapore—$52,809.

"You don't have to answer this question, Cayetano," a foreign investor told the Filipino Senator. "But I would like to know why everyone in your nation, by age up to with us?"

"Simple," our high school classmate replied. "We just see five times more. And it's all we have."

The investors beamed. "Sign here, Cayetano."

The number of international migrants (published in the past quarter century) is more than 200 million. In Latin America, Mexicans led migrants, mostly spanning for the US of A over Filipinos, Indonesians and Bangladeshi specialized migrants from Asia. Filipino migration rate is 4.0 percent, about double Guyana's 2.4 percent.

Migration is the most effective tool for defined the enduring global poverty," the Princeton study notes. Even if countries allowed skilled migrants to expand their own labor force by a mere 1 percent, the world would be richer, according to one estimate, by $356 billion a year. "That is more than 50 times the amount the rich world spends on foreign aid each year."

Europe and America (and North Asia countries like Japan and Korea) are aging. "They'll need more young and energetic nurses, care assistants, homehelpers and obstetrics," said Goldin, Cameron and Balarajan. "Indeed, even as developing Filipinos are passingly echoes of labor shortages in rich countries."

Demand for highly skilled workers will grow. In the decade ahead, advanced nations will compete even more fiercely for mobile talent. Migration will "globalize" itself.

"Immigration is unpopular in rich countries," Goldin, Cameron and Balarajan noted. "There, people overestimate its costs and underestimate its benefits. Migration creates losers as well as winners. But the gains vastly outweigh the losses."

The UN Human Development Report made the same point in 2009. Migration can be a win-win solution for both migrant-sending and receiving countries. To achieve this, the "Overcoming Barriers" study recommended "six main reforms." Among others, these include: (1) make mobility an integral part of economic development policies; (2) liberalize and simplify regular channels that allow people to work abroad; (3) secure basic rights for migrants; (4) reduce migration transaction costs."

"The next big wave of migration will come from Africa," predicts the new book. "Today, more Africans are not poor to move far. If current Congolese pressure causes afford the four flee to Gambia, let alone Belgium. But as the continent becomes less poor, more and more Africans will have the means to migrate."

Over 25,000 North African refugees have swamped tiny island of Lampedusa. Is this the first sign of her wave?

The Philippine migration flood wasn't obvious until the mid-1970s. According to Manolo Abella of the United Nations in their OECD study "Future of International Migration." The Korean and Thai experiences show that pressure to migrate eases with increased economic growth. For the Philippines, this point would be reached in the 2030s. For much of the next decade, the pressure to migrate will persist.

Surveys show that four out of 10 children aged 10 to 12 dream of working abroad. And six out of 10 children of OFWs say they too, would like to work abroad.

"The Philippines is still saddled to labor displacement," the OECD study said. There are signs of topics that that will link the country's migration policies to development processes."

Our government has not walked the seminar as a presence of high-value professionals appears to be a public. "I have confessions of children whose parents work abroad," a friend friend said. "You respond by more confusion and pain."

Local governments in former emigrant-sending areas like Bohol and Ilocos Norte have begun measures to bring skilled migrants home. Local governments have not framed on seeking the 20 percent Local Development Fund share quoted hinted.

"Our development must be re-tooled," the Aklan priest said. "Our bitten never imagined in wonder of 15 percent of the populations. Many of our children cannot recall a difference."

(Email: jmercado@inquirer.com)

Visions and revisions

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiroz

FROM HOT-selling things every economical low-cost-to-use, but he's among a lot of chances to make things better. While it's true enough that "you making cartoons, making model up" (where's there are no guidelines, only the proper), it's even truer that you making any things, making cartoon where there is no instruction, there is no cartoon.

Arguably, a government that's not corrupt, or at least not the one the previous one, is already up-to-date. A government that you trust, or do not dare act badly at the previous one, is already up-to-date. But it is not enough. What the public expects from the P-Noy government is more than not-corrupt, more than what it did to bring it to power: not just as epic. It was not the brilliance of those who are currently in power that brought them to power, or become lethal their campaign managers. It was the brilliance of the people. They came the voters who had the vote to say P-Noy: "Sir, sir, they want to this close who had the keys, in both, you had the vote.

They do not put expect him to be virtuous. They expect him to be courageous. They do not just expect him to do things differently; they expect him to do things better.

Becoming a large portion of the budget to doles isn't doing things heroically, even if it's doing things differently. At the very least that is to become a cause suspicion of dividing spoils to party functions, or worse of allowing those same functions to campaign this early for 2013. Doles are the first step to bad times. The doles do not shock politicians, they do not even shock government but in the long run, not even to the electorate.

At the very most what is to become the main money-spending item, apart from the pensions/employment. That is a time-honored way of getting out of the rut of unendingly bad times, or more and welfares in that perpetual state only way at least of shocking unmoving poverty. That was what Franklin discovered did during the Great Depression. He opened up millions of emergency jobs in public works, quite smart least, giving relief to the unemployed. Spending for public works practically disappeared during the last two years of Gloria's rule.

Just as well, you want to subsidize, subsidize agriculture. Or more specifically, subsidize the farmers.

Agriculture doesn't just provide food to the table. It provides employment—or self-employment, or livelihood—for most Filipinos. The majority are, underdeveloped agriculture is one of the biggest sources of poverty in the country. Who wishes to hear more? From the last two times I have been in the US, I always swear marijuana (though I could be wrong), for lack of people wanting to till land anymore, farming brings nothing. With improvements being expended to the developer easy to produce (a lot more in the long run), the farmers government developed farmers in the areas of Negros.

Without seeds, fertilizer, irrigation, irrigation, and whatever else a farmer needs to grow things, not having a tax cutter sipping them off on the price of what they sell, they have good reason to distrust the government. Why should they trust you? They can't even afford to buy their own seed. The last thing farmers want is for their children to live in their muddy footsteps. The first is to go abroad and become OFWs. I've heard a lot of comments from such children: "I'll never be a farmer like my parents." It's so sad to hear. Farming time is to be a farmer, to be proud to be a farmer. All this is. But the irony is the farmers. He deserves recognition. So farming, employment.

Food security or food sovereignty is a catchword now, though for many of us that is, it is to some extent. Food security is to be able to buy food from any way. It is to be United States, it is to Europe, it is to Japan. There are countries that barely subsidize their agriculture, there are countries that heavily protect their agriculture. MTO notwithstanding. Well the fools not to do so. Especially in our case—it has that country by sufficiently balanced relative farming dynamics per food on the table has put work in the hands of most Filipinos.

And finally, I insist for the life of me understand why the government isn't using People Power to power their country. In the 21st century People Power doesn't just mean toppling governments, it can also mean building a nation. Proof of it is the very existence of this government itself. This is a government that came to power on the strength of People Power masquerading as voters. People Power is the one essential weapon P-Noy has that his predecessor did not have to the one that he could not.

But he's not using it.

When Pelaflorida has already shown wholesome traits of what is possible if you can harness the spirit of volunteerism and make it a movement. "Bayanihan" is the "national genius" is one of the most inspired inventions in this country, and I don't know why it cannot be made to govern the landscape by the Department of Education and other private groups. The "Kapwa" component of "pakikipag-kapwa" is the other side of the coin. That is to say the very one you may provide. The enlightened does not, ask, "What do you do for me?" The enlightened asks, "What would you like to make?"

No, this government isn't making things to much worse, it's just not making things to much better. As it should.

Creating needed jobs

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

It's a recurring puzzle in Time Magazine. Steven Zeitchik (above) first managed to bring unemployment down in the United States. The concern is the observation that the US economy is now producing the same amount of goods and services as it did in 2007, prior to the global crisis, but with seven million fewer workers. The positive spin on this would be to say that America's productivity has risen. But this offers no comfort to the millions of jobless Americans whose numbers have roughly doubled since the crisis started. Like much of the rest of the world, the US has been experiencing jobless growth, or more aptly, jobkilling growth. We in the Philippines are no strangers to this phenomenon, which has afflicted us for more or less the past 12 years.

In the 1990s, productivity gains in the US translated into higher economic output, higher incomes, and of more increasing jobs (because the higher income could demand for goods and services also rise proportionally). But Zeitchin observes that lately productivity gains have been achieved almost entirely by cutting jobs, due to dwelling ways of producing the same products with fewer people. Even as the economy has started to regain lost ground, the jobless recovery has inspired the resignation of our youth, even as statistics have

continued on page A12

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uncannily close to the one unemployment rate. Jobless has primarily been a youth unemployment problem. And certain government policies that have a few but rather the creation of millions of potential jobs elsewhere is the point.

Think also recent drop in President Aquino's campaign being blamed on, among other things, his supposed failure to improve the job situation in the country, he needs a job creation strategy that has far-reaching and more sustainable impact.

Manufacturing. Growth potentials for local manufacturing, the most dominant manufacturing industry, are in the processing and packaging of domestic and foreign products. Creative ways must be found to facilitate investments in micro-small and medium-scale food processing, closer to primary production areas, especially in Mindanao. Mindanao's fruits (as Filipinos always say) are such a high-end fruit-eater and apparel, are poised to love doing well in world markets, especially with China's declining labor cost advantage. But government needs to complement economic diplomacy, including overseas economic assignments, and fostering into new additional markets in the work agenda of our diplomatic services abroad.

Growth industries. Other industries with much untapped growth potential include low-to-medium-income housing, for which requirements for various availability, transport, where employment implies go far and wide, and shipbuilding and repair, is unused for an archipelagic country like ours. Government needs to invest much more in public housing finance, reform or rid the behind our many neighbors, including much poorer ones. Open door would serve the greatest good of the greatest number, even in governments must support our own in our domestic and foreign markets.

Unfair competition. Worker screening. Here, our firms would be on preventing displaced economic workers, especially less-skilled ones, to be able to gain therefore unemployment, and then have them create more income-generating share only, jobs elsewhere. For those who must rely on the latter, re-training programs to give them up for the potential growth industries mentioned above is not a job for government alone, but must be set another public-private partnership.

Small and medium enterprises. It is far cheaper to create a job in an SME than in a large enterprise, and benefits are more widespread. Government must make an environment where SMEs can thrive and grow, with fewer hurdles administrative requirements, whether funded from public coffers or by private partners, needs to be assisted. Government must have a focused list of top priority projects that will bring the most strategic benefits to the economy and to the people.

Much more can be done to be sure. Whatever done to the jobs, or the lack of them, will ultimately spell the success or failure of this administration.

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Creative celebration of a hundred years

AT LARGE

Elena Jimenez-Bautista

TO HERO AID many years a company can celebrate its 100th anniversary. It could throw a huge bash, complete with glitzy entertainment numbers. It could build a monument to its achievements. Or it could launch a series of public service projects.

But Ayala Land, Inc., decided to go down another road. Website doyen Yasmin Ayala Hidalgo-Sobrevinas, "Champions in Life, for Life," she said, "Ayala Land wanted to do a project that would be one of the most memorable and touching ads to be seen on TV these days. It wasn't a love story that began with childhood friendship and endure through the years. It wasn't a story of the kind of Hollywood grandchild who promises to run the catch of two stores. And definitely beyond description are the various Pinoy products that grew here, indeed, but is certainly more Nestlé has been part of Filipino family life.

During the Commercial Gold Night last Sunday at the Resorts World complex, the masterpiece was shown to the public for the first time. The two-minute film created by Ayala Land's in-house creative team, led by Ayala Land's chief creative officer Jeff Bernardo, "Tingala sa Buhay" by Bayani Fernando, and "Sigaw Sandali" by Cadence Gonzales.

Directed by Jeffrey Jeturian, cinematographer and film director, "The Abduction and the Runaway" tells the story of a boy who dreams of winning contentious contest girls despite his earlier misdeeds and shortcomings. It's a typical tale of childhood and preconceptions, particularly the tendency to combine "p" and "t," but also pairs homage to Filipino family values and unity.

Unplugged," on the other hand, illustrates the value of human interaction in connect again," in spite ourselves away from digital gadgets to discover nature and human connections. The coach of a high school football team, Dindo Arroyo, and his wife, Cherie Gil, are the parents of his grandfather (Eddie Garcia), and in the old man's company, they rediscover the joys of communicating with nature and with each other. I personally like this film for its cinematography and the way it celebrates nature's evidence becoming sappy.

"BAYAN Tinging Panalo" of "Hope in a Map" was meant as a comedic homage to Ishmael Bernal's "Himala," but instead of Nora Aunor, it features the beauty Gretchen Barretto whose only dream is to have a cup of tea within my own life, she. Hope how she made amidst the gift of prophecy and it halted by his own desire to a savior and own. In time, he returns his new name, suffering to mend his friends and neighbors with whom he drowned in and sense when they were children. I don't get laugh when she rehearses prophet stuffs' delivery "Walking friends! (There are no enemies!)"

"Tingala sa Buhay" is simple, flattering story about growing up. Gretchen Barretto is the adult daughter who longs a friendship on a college and sees one. It has many things to say about social and economic inequity. Yet the two boys' natural innocence and their ability to look beyond their own to see the one-ness which the poor live it are necessary to provide a proper counter-weight. More they solve their problems and reach a proper understanding, with the audience to ignore-ignore applause and delight.

Directors Chit John Lloyd Cruz stars in "Sigaw Sandali." Annoyed as a female coach name Angelica Panganiban, he is forced to take her class for "sigaw" from the director from telling his name a successful result. In the end, he realizes that the "sigaw" had been around him all along, it only he had opened his heart to possibilities.

THE other films in the collection are, "Sibay" by Jun Munoz, "Tahi Habit" by Ai Filomeno, "Old Pa Rin Ito Ti O Ito Nodo" by Jessup Ancinth, "Ang Pagbabalik ni Kapitan Basilio" by Adolfo "Bo Cooling Jr," Martinez's second entry.

The 10 short movies run the gamut from one-night spoof to serious drama, personal or political. Each one is a gem in its own right, and the whole collection amounts to the theme of family and human connection. The audience also displays the wealth of Filipino humor, creativity, and what Filipino filmmakers and advertising creatives could achieve with corporate support and guidance.

Indeed corporate efforts are due all around, especially to do the media and locate behind the scenes. Ayala Land's celebration of its 100th anniversary with another milestone: a celebration of short films that speak to us as Filipinos, to families, and as a nation.

Our Kabayan problem

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

MOLLIE Gozon was one president for six years and a senator for one. Lee Hoc A. some three months after leaving government service, he is testament his role as principal anchor of the Ray Day (RE-LIBS) transition, "TV Patrol."

Both are examples of the unified wrestling duos in journalism, the passive-voice journalism into government service for a time and then-return to the profession. Some right, some with certain questionable, but the pattern is unmistakable. And the duos can prove, I think, the triumph of Edward Lopez, journalist-turned-diplomat-turned-journalist. Government service benefited from his insight and wisdom; his further with words and his capacity to work. When he returned to the newspaper, he was regularly for the lessons in so far to you), his writing was deepened by his experience in government and diplomacy.

But for Gozon and Lee, the TV Connection is millions of Filipinos, reminds me that there are dangers to the revolving door, by one thing, it can put your media audience on unsafe ground.

Last week, I learned that Gozon's new skilful rendition of "TV Patrol" introduced a news segment by Jorge Cariño on former Gov. Jose Joaquin Ejercito, of impeachment case. Cariño, a savvy reporter and a fine Filipino, is also a friend of many years. Of course, you expecting Joy from the Sen. Bilibid Prison, after the first hearing on Lerner's charges had been concluded. Dr. Cariño began by asking Ejercito about the latter's relationship with former Batangas governor said during the hearing, and then immediately focused on Lerner's charges about housing.

Apparently, Lerner had one his set of blame aside and declared that the government housing project instructed into the national prison had contributed to the current culture in the PDF which allowed him to move in and out of prison with impunity.

But Dr. Cariño was, of course, hearing true that up he had two hands of the Aquino years, and his question was meant to give to him that Lerner did not deserve what he was getting. Ejercito's answer was really didn't, but it wasn't me, while listening to Dr. Cariño, that he was using Cariño's report to tell Lerner's experiences. In other words, he used, and consulted, like a person.

I do not believe in journalistic objectivity; or, to be more precise, I subscribe to the view, delineated by the late Prof. Raymundo Rosales in "The Elements of Journalism," that objectivity applies to the method which journalists use, not to the journalists themselves. "The analogy, I think, first made in the 1920s, during the campaign to professionalize journalist Hilda Lippmann and the philosopher John Dewey, are to the scientific method. I did not therefore expect Dr. Cariño to feel unmoved by Lerner's pathetic testimony. I did not expect him to use a news report as an opportunity to defend himself. In short, I expected human act to unprofessional journalism, not as other, but professional journalism as practiced by Dr. Cariño.

Is this an impossible ideal? I hope not, for all our sakes. Whether Dr. Cariño likes it or not, he was part of the Aquino administration. The impression he created in his report to the public was prejudice in 2004 was a manifestation of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's meddling of her win the election. He will find himself defending more and more adverse news reports, either on "TV Patrol" or on radio programs. Of no consequence, he could not himself as an ex-politician, should he still call himself journalist?

The pattern I outlined in the last column about 'vendor intensity' and the new-look inquisitorial verbose seems to be holding up. In again our Fr. Joaquin Bernas' column as Constitutionalist's blog yesterday titled "Con ad de Quiroz scheme 'disputations,' and the day's editorial on just compensation for Piatco (Good enough?), but many more people recommended. Several said I missed the Bernas point on the reproductive health bill ('Gerald of discourse in the EO debate'). As of 3 p.m. yesterday, however, the de Quiroz column on January separating public prosecutors from the courts more consensus than did the Bernas piece—a fascinating, whole other layer of peek. In opinion, layers and layers of possible meaning. I like that. I mean when I say food, back bun gives me.

Incidentally, I made a mistake when I referred to my friend Lynette Erskaler Sana as the managing editor of inquirer.net: she is, in fact, executive editor. My apologies.

* * *

EQUAL TIME NEWS. Today, the much-anticipated Philippine translation of "El Filibusterismo," by the venerable Nick Joaquin, will be launched. Behold the National Book Awards in the United States, between available worldwide.

* * *

My nineteen thanks to the many well-wishers who called or otherwise reached me by SMS and e-mail or on Facebook. The depth of my involuntarily good fortune can be gathered from the fact that I received more than a hundred messages. Special thanks to Ambassador Jose Ma. Ingles, ex-ambassador Jose Cuisia, Jr., Ambassador Jose Brillantes, Jr.,

Raise CHEd standards

LETTERS

THE BOARD of Trustees of Cebu Doctor's University voted "A" on motion to be held "1 December, 3/4/11)

It is unfortunate that Dean had to resort to misinformation and lies about what is happening in the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) regarding Tuition Fee Increases (TFIs). Despite her protestations, Dean Sarmiento did not have the non-admission, he and his organizations have brought their case to different government agencies and representatives but not one of them has taken conclusive action. "We added that they continue to be ignored and taken for granted.

Here are the facts which the public should know and which should clearly to Dean who governments agencies and representatives have not taken up the claims of the Sumilao 25 vega Monument, Salvador Tribay, Jr., Tagaytay, Davao, Davao del Sur and Davao del Norte did but for: [illegible]

1. The Homeowners of Tagaytay and Tribunals, which use the IP concessionaire Davao's affected by the operations of Tagaytay Water Corp. (TWC), have an association called Asociacion ni Mayhayo sa Hoagbayan ng Tribunal Mahimuot sa Tagaytay ng Tribunals (Association of Residents of Tagaytay Tribunals) (Association). The Association is registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as an IP group, and with the Department of Labor and Employment as a people's organization. Since 2003, the Association has been meeting regularly and other branches from TWC per the Memorandum of Agreement signed on July 28, 2006 by the TWC, SEC and Antipolo City, and ending of Dec. 6, 2008. These meetings, which can be validated anytime by anyone with the SEC and DOLE.

2. The Sumilaos, of which Dean is the board chairman, was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on [illegible] from 3, 2010, or about 18 months ago, a verification and validation with the NGO-Integrity del Sur revealed that the names of its members are not in the list of Homeowners who applied for, and have been granted, a Certificate of Award Domain Title (CADT) in October 2008 by the NGO in her, none in the membership list no. [illegible]

3. It is a fact that today, many non-IP individuals and groups have come forward claiming to be IPs and, therefore, entitled to receive royalties and other benefits from the mining company [illegible].

4. TWC recognizes the NGO as the government agency mandated to implement the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA). The TWC-Association partnership is also with the NGO because its dealings and relationship with its host Homeowners Association. To date there has been no announcements from the NGO requesting interviews to the Tagaytay Association, or to any organization invited to receive royalties from TWC.

We would like to thank the Inquirer for the opportunity to clarify issues that brought up by Dean. We would like to suggest that further queries regarding TWC's royalty payments to the host IP community to be directed to the NGO.

—ROGER SORIANO,
resident sales manager,
Sagpaan Mining Corp.

'Taint' not cause of SCTEX review

WE WOULD like to clarify the news story titled "BCDA confirms review of SCTEX deal" (Inquirer, 5/28/11), which stated that "one of the provisions of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) was not one of several big-ticket projects being reviewed by the Aquino administration for its possible 'taint' involving anomalous deals.

The BCDA never said that the SCTEX concession agreement with the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) is being reviewed because of the alleged "taint." The reasons for the projected review of the contract are clearly defined in the first paragraph of our press statement, to wit: "The BCDA has decided to review the SCTEX deal.

"The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) signed an agreement to franchise, operate and maintain the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) on a build, operate-public-private partnership (BPP) that would serve as a model for other PPPs. The contract between the BCDA and MNTC on the operation and maintenance of the SCTEX was signed last November. It has been yet because effective because the conditions precedent for availability have not been fully delivered by both parties. Notwithstanding, this review will be to the purpose of maximizing benefits for both the government and private sector and for the greater interest of the public."

BCDA president and chief executive officer Antol Pedro D. Gonzalez said the phase "identified expressway" is only coincidental. "We like the Subic-Tarlac project, which he said related because of the 'lack of transparency and onerous modifications signed by originators which proved to be grossly disadvantageous to the government."

Corruption, as alleged, is not the factor for reviewing the agreement. The old and decrees boards of the BCDA decided to review the contract in order to maximize benefits for both the government and the private sector.

It is clear, therefore, that the review being considered by both parties is really a due diligence exercise to update the status of the MNTC-BCDA partnership and to guarantee the optimization of mutual benefits for the project.

—LEB-JAVIER LEVISTE,
vice president, corporate affairs group,
MANUEL PABLO M. MIRANDA,
manager, Public Affairs Department,
Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA),
3/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

'IP' group's claims based on lies

THE HEIRS of Cecilio Dizon's lawyer titled "A tax increase to be held" (Inquirer, 5/4/11)

It is unfortunate that Dizo had to resort to misinformation and lies about what is happening in the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) regarding Tuition Fee Increases (TFIs). Despite her protestations, Dean Sarmiento did not have the non-admission, he and his organizations have brought their case to different government agencies and representatives but not one of them has taken conclusive action. "We added that they continue to be ignored and taken for granted.

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—ROGER SORIANO,
resident sales manager,
Sagpaan Mining Corp.

Total mining ban is unreasonable

MIRIZ HEAD, Cruz is correct in saying in his May 24 column that many companies have filed applications for mining operations in Palawan, only one or two are environmentally allowed to set up shop because of the stringent requirements of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as well as the provincial government.

As for the fear that public officials may be lobbied by mining companies who have duly approved mining applications left and right, that has apparently not happened at all, since there are only three large-scale mining operations in the province, all of which enjoy social acceptability in their host communities.

It is true that mining can be very destructive to the environment and the Philippines may not have the technology and experience in this country to use these mining operations should protect other than destroy the environment and for conscience with the principles of sustainable development.

It doesn't make sense for a country to have an outright moratorium imposed when it obviously will put them by its vast economic and mineral resources. Could it be that mining bans anywhere in this country may be imposed and unreasonable because natural resources can be harnessed in a responsible manner toward wealth-creating activities and enhancing the quality of life of Filipinos.

—GERARD BORTO,
jaspe_8226@yahoo.com

A FILIPINO war veteran at the American cemetery in Taguig City

Hope for veterans still awaiting Equity Compensation

FORTY-TWO years—against the Japanese invaders, and against the poverty that imprisoned his family—Isaias Silvosa, a veteran of World War II, passed many inertias 11 days in a lingering illness. He was 94 years and 11 months old. His claim for Equity Compensation has become more and worthless. The chances are under good because the American rules were preventing for papers "on the US Embassy" had no knowledge about the ranking unit, to the armed forces and were confused about his real rank.

In his letter of appeal, Abreu explained that when he was inducted into the Philippine Army in 1941, he took two pictures: but when he was honorably discharged from the military service after the war, he received the rank of corporal, not sergeant. Unfortunately, he has now become the norm. Responsible mining means that mining operations should protect other than destroy the environment and for conscience with the principles of sustainable development.

It doesn't make sense for a country to have an outright moratorium imposed when it obviously will put them by its vast economic and mineral resources. Could it be that mining bans anywhere in this country may be imposed and unreasonable because natural resources can be harnessed in a responsible manner toward wealth-creating activities and enhancing the quality of life of Filipinos.

—GERARD BORTO,
jaspe_8226@yahoo.com

Traffic mess exposes shoppers in QC malls to great risk

IN LIGHT of the recent vehicular accident which killed a prominent journalist, I would like to call the attention of MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino and Quezon City officials to the danger that people in SM and Robinson's in Fairview are exposed to every day. The two giant malls fronting each other create a gargantuan traffic mess during the peak hours, clogging the vicinity of these malls. Shoppers, including students coming from nearby schools, vote there very competing malls in droves, especially during peak hours. To get to their destinations, they are forced to negotiate their way through unruly traffic and impatient drivers. Because there are neither access nor bridges nor traffic lights in the area, I am sure Mayor Herbert Bautista's pedestrian bridge project like what they will use if they want the best and services possible.

Judge Advocate General, for his signature. Emil thrown been paid the Equity Compensation of P9,000, he would have been brought in the best hospital for treatment and would have enjoyed it before his journey called him to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no travelers return."

Abreu, this World War II veteran died such a hero's from destroying hall until date the Philippine Scouts who were not actually World War II veterans come this year only received nursing in 1945 when the war was about to end. After the Daniel Inouye Congressional Recognition Act of 1990, were the ones who readily benefited from the Equity Compensation of US President Barack Obama. In fact, a Philippine Scout said he was recruited in 1946 and was pulled out of the country supreme individuals, and sent to Okinawa, Japan, while some of them were sent to Korea. Unless this error is rectified by the US Congress, World War II patriots in twenties will remain Chrome of uniqueness.

Remember the Filipino Veterans Equity Bill of May, Inday Espina filed in the US Congress this year is in the right direction. It is hoped that this bill will be enacted into law. This will benefit the remaining World War II guerrilla veterans, now in the twilight years of their lives, whose names were on the rosters that formed in the Missouri archives. Those lists can be reconstructed from the records of those personally receiving monthly old-age pensions from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office.

—SOCRATES O. PEÑOLA,
district commander,
Veterans Federation of the Philippines,
Camarines Norte Veterans Memorial Station Region 5

As Inday was an ex-officio Undersecretary on Welfare dossier said Ex-officio Veterans Affairs Office, Quezon this error is rectified by the US Congress, World War II patriots in twenties will remain Chrome of uniqueness.

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—SOCRATES O. PEÑOLA,
district commander,
Veterans Federation of the Philippines,
Camarines Norte Veterans Memorial Station Region 5

Unchanged social divide

HIGH BLOOD

Restaurant F she Gin Bayan

YET, who else to know the concerns of the unpremembering and alone, what matter that blood pressure rise or makes them sick, connect that cell well with their world and with themselves. — **Ed.**

I built my house in an area that used to be sugarcane fields but has been converted into a housing subdivision. The many new homes in the subdivision as well as in the nearby subdivisions present a picture of a growing, middle-class community. But not everyone in this is thrive. Yet, my homeowners now has many professionals who work locally and abroad, as well as service providers who are employed abroad. But many of them are not "earners," they actually come from other areas but have built their homes here because of the availability of residential lots that are cheaper than those in Bacolod.

So when are the "earner" poor families that I speak of? And where are the sugarcane fields? Alas, if not all, have not changed that much. They are cannot be easily seen now; they are hidden from view fabricated to accommodate the newcomers; they now live in cramped spaces. The area where I live is being developed into an urban-like community, while the streets still retains home-cooked merienda, as well as daytime household help. Another indicator of the vision for of the poor is the presence of a dubious "at-risk" 17-year-old-boy-gang around the subdivision to collect some little pickings that they can sell, collect firewood, or offer their services to the homeowners. They all do not go to school.

The unchanged for of the poor had stolen my confidence during our visits to the barangays to campaign against a coal-fired power plant that was being proposed in my hometown. In places now and distant from the polarization, the many delegations' houses made me conscious of the presence and the poverty of the voters. In my barangay, many of the houses I knew in my youth had not changed while some even looked worse. During those years and subsequently, the sight of many unemployed adolescent males in my barangay made me wonder why they did not go to school? How many would've explained because of their lack of educational? Will anyone watch or finish college? How many will only experience falling in relation? How many will not even be able to finish grade school, each more high school? How many will be explained because of their lack of educational? Will anyone watch or finish college? How many will only experience falling in relation? How many will not even be able to go to the capital city in their lifetime? How many will eventually drink cash night to numb the pains and ashes caused by the grind-ing toils to the rice fields or sugarcane fields? How many will die young?

My formal schooling enabled me to be employed in government and non-government projects and programs directed at uplifting the welfare of the disadvantaged. But since my job I had to ill helped. Nonetheless, when on opportunity arises, I will volunteer to assist in my native to the less privileged.

Remarks such the Aurora de Manila Diocese Jr. Bernardo P. de los Reyes, 64, now resides in Negros Occidental where she environmentally active, but anthropology working in community-oriented work.

Time bishops learned from the poor

THERE is a reference in the context of declaring Ramon Jacobo, "Who can be called it was the bold or judgment?" (Tend to Bishop says: Maintaining prudent Church," Inquirer, 5/17/11)

Perhaps the good Archbishop should reflect on the fact that the Roman Catholic Church has held the post of the country at great pains for decades over the years of transactions, and learn from the poor's long-suffering calmness in the face of adversity.

—ROSCARTH ROLDAN
and ROBERT BASE,
Quezon City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mercedes Streets, city of Makati or send a fax to 896-4795, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Chinoy trader tagged in smuggling of black coral

From page A1

square kilometers, or five times the size of Manila, which has a land area of 38.55 square km.

Guelbenzu said Navarro also implicated two men—one in charge of the harvesting, and the other the shipper.

Navarro to be judged

Guelbenzu said the Bureau of Customs would initially file charges only against Navarro in the Department of Justice on Thursday for violating the country's Fisheries Code.

Guelbenzu added that the bureau also would seek Navarro's inclusion in the bureau of immigration's watch list to prevent him from leaving the country.

"We cannot make any move because the incident happened a long time ago. (Navarro) is lowly roaming around, but he cannot leave the country," he said.

Guelbenzu said Navarro also offered a sworn affidavit to the bureau, but the agency instead is drawing up a subpoena for him to submit it instead to the justice department.

"There are his allegations, but it remains to be proven if that Chinese woman has something to do with his case," he added.

Lin Lin Trading

Theresa Mondilla Lim, chief of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, said yesterday that Navarro had disclosed in his affidavit that the source buyer was consigned to the Zandonanga-based Li n Lim Trading.

She said Navarro had claimed he was not a part of the trading company and that he was only a representative of the Chinese company hired to ship the contraband.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje told reporters that Frontline Agusta had deceived the prosecution of Navarro and the imposition of "strongest penalties" on him.

Paje said criminal charges against Navarro would be filed for violations of the Wildlife Act, which provides harsher penalties, instead of the Fisheries Code.

He also said the value of the damaged and confiscated species was lower than the actual costs.

"The value is underrated so far," Paje said. "The damage is not worst because it runs up to hundreds of millions of pesos."

It takes more than two decades for coral reefs to recover, he noted. Further, the destruction of the reefs will have a domino effect on other species that depend directly and indirectly on it.

Senate inquiry

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, chair of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, inquired the contraband at the port of Manila yesterday.

"We will conduct an investigation to put a stop to this type of our wise and natural resources," Zubiri told reporters. "I am a diver and it pains me to see these harvested corals and dead animals."

In a privilege speech later in the Senate, Zubiri condemned "in the strongest possible terms" the destruction of coral reefs, describing it as "economic sabotage."

"We cannot let this high-crime pass without our scrutiny ... We will expose all the people behind this crime, particularly the financier and masterminds of this syndicate," he said.

Citing a World Wildlife Fund estimate in 1994, the senator said destroying a kilometer of coral reefs cost between P6.166 million and P54 million over 25 years.

"If we lose our corals and mangroves, definitely we will lose those marine ground where the fish spawn, lay eggs and feed on, in their, we will lose our rich fishing grounds and depriv millions of Filipinos who rely on fishing for their livelihood, as well as pose a threat to our food security," Zubiri said.

With reports from Kristine L. Alave and Christine V. Zaguirre

After fishkill, 'bangus' consumers cautious

From page A1

freshwater lake "turned white" because of a recent massive fishkill.

Residents of Talisay town, whose economy depends heavily on Taal Lake's bounty, remained cautious even as officials sent out word that the risk of eating milkfish dumped into other affected varieties were already being disposed of by the washboat.

"You know how people are. They think the fish affected by the fishkill are still being sold," Mayor Erasmo Mendoza said.

On Monday, she noted when taking a dive at the seafood row of the Talisay public market and reported a 50 percent drop in the coming days.

"They would select much of the town's income. More than half of our population depends on fishing for livelihood," Mendoza told the locals.

The fishkill has affected the towns of Talisay, San Nicolas, Agoncillo, Laurel and Batilo, as well as Tanauan City.

Blamed on the onset of the rainy season, particularly the sudden drop in the lake water's oxygen level, the fishkill wiped out an estimated 800 metric tons of mostly milkfish species in Taal Lake on Friday.

Some 400 MT of milkfish died in Talisay alone in 84 out of about 1,000 fish pens. An additional 400 tons of milkfish have died in the other towns.

Dead milkfish floated inside the bamboo pens until nets for recording can be seen. Fish pens, which occupies an area of some half the size of a basketball court.

Damage has been estimated at P10 million, Mendoza told The Associated Press.

"Others were still not documented because they intended to let in those fish caught," the mayor said.

"Our buyers should not be incurred's. For sure, they would know if the fish is already spoiled," she said. "The gills of a fresh catch should be red."

The mayor assured that other species, mainly his tilapia, were spared from the fishkill.

Mendoza announced that a state of calamity had been declared in Batangas Barangays, the hardest-hit area under her jurisdiction.

Trucks monitored

Jessie Hop, Manuel Maligaya, Talisay police chief, said he was under a "strict directive" from the government to make sure Cavite transporting fish products to the market would carry only fresh catch.

"I don't think anyone would try selling spoiled fish because it would really be smelling bad by now," Maligaya said.

Abner Mel, tons of dead fish have been buried in an upland area in Sampaloc. Officials were still looking for more landowners who would allow the remaining fish to be disposed of in their properties.

Marietta Bonana of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) office in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) region said Taal's water remained unfavorable to aquatic life—a sign that the fishkill may continue for a week.

Depleted oxygen level

As of Monday, Bonana said, the oxygen level remained depleted at 3.71 parts per million (ppm), below the normal level of 6 ppm. The readings were as low as 2.42 ppm on Friday.

The water temperature was "heavy" with transparency measured at 1.7 meters from the normal level of 2.6 meters. Temperature was at 31.7 degrees Celsius, warmer than the "favorable" range of 26-29 degrees.

"What caused the fishkill was the combination of unfavorable weather conditions, an overturn, and the decomposing water quality of the Taal Lake," Bonana said.

An overturn occurs when surface waters get plunked down and the bottom water, which carries pollutants, rises to the surface, resulting in oxygen depletion.

The BFAR has advised fish cage owners to conduct an "emergency harvest" of marketing fish before they get affected by the phenomenon.

Not related to volcano

Volcanologists said the fishkill was not related to the recent activity of Taal Volcano, which lies to the middle of the lake and has been rumbling for over a month. Taal is among the deadliest of the country's 22 active volcanoes.

On Monday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Taal registered 115 earthquakes over the last 24 hours, the highest number of tremors recorded in a day since the area was placed under alert Level 3 in April.

Phivolcs said residents around the volcano heard rumbling sounds and felt movements measuring up to intensity 4 last weekend, but no physical changes on the ground were reported.

The latest readings reflect "a remarkable increase" and a sharp jump from the average of 18 mild quakes daily since Alert Level 2 took effect on April 9, said Jaime Kintanar, officer in charge of the Phivolcs Volcano Monitoring and Eruptions Prediction Division.

"If this (high number of volcanic quakes) is sustained, it could eventually lead to an eruption," Kintanar said.

'Earthquake swarm'

Phivolcs spokesperson said recently specialist July Sabit said the "earthquake swarm"—a sign of magma and gases pushing up to the volcano's surface—indicated that Taal would continue to be restive in the months to come.

Of the 115 tremors, 12 were felt at intensity 1-4 by residents of the towns of Pira grande, Alas-as and Calauit, which are all located around Volcano Island. Except for one which occurred 8:33 p.m. of May 29, the spokes were recorded in the early hours of Sunday.

But Sabit said it was still too early to raise the alert level, noting that 130 quakes in a day might sound a lot vs ordinary observers but the frequency was still low by Taal standards.

In the early 1960s, Taal had an earthquake swarm of over 1,500 tremors a day, Sabit recalled.

In its latest bulletin, Phivolcs noted a slight rise in the water temperature in the main crater lake, which could mean that magma continued to push upwards. Readings made on May 28 showed the water heating up to 32.8 degrees from 32.5 degrees.

Phivolcs advised the public that the main crater, Daang Kastila Trail, and Mount Tabaro on the island remained off limits.

Allan Luna, resident volcanologist at the Taal Observatory based in Talisay, said the increased number of volcanic quakes could not cause a panic but residents should be "doubly cautious."

Island residents still refused to evacuate despite the increased volcanic activity. Mendoza reported.

Taal has had 33 eruptions recorded since 1572, the last on Oct. 5, 1977. A series of major eruptions occurred from 1965 to 1970 and another from 1976 to 1977. *With reports from Kristine L. Alave in Manila, AP and AFP*

Malacañang has another stay-in smoker

From page A6

Aquino two," remaining caretakers said, from now on, look after it with official help from the government.

Believed to be more than a century old, the tree had been stories of its own this way Palace said that, primarily as the hand of a certain "Mr. Brown." The resident Aquino, an elemental being reported in Philippine mythology as a non-drinking, cigar-puffing sight.

Much of what the President knows about Mr. Brown has come from his chief protocol officer Miguel Pierre Rubio, who also served in the same capacity during the administration of the President's mother, the late Cory Aquino.

Present at yesterday's program held near the bubble tree, Rubio said that he, in turn, learned about the tree's origins from a retired gardener who tended the Palace grounds in the 1950s, during the presidency of Manuel Quezon.

"A tree of love by Maria Aurora during the time of the American governor general and probably dropped a seed and it fell right there where an older tree stood. A family couplings grew and eventually disrupted that tree," Rubio said, sharing the gardener's tale.

He said the gardener also told him about "Mr. Brown" and how this name got such a name after he "decided to use this tree as his house during this American time"—a Dutch when Dutch-born colonized a "brown" case.

"And so he settled and still from there. Some people say that at night, they see this here, and like all here he's a giant. Very, very big," Rubio said.

But by accounts, "Mr. Brown" has turned out to be a "good" citizen, albeit one who could be "very mischievous," especially if passionately forget to submit him a greeting, the political officer said.

"Maybe you'll get tripped by a cable from a TV camera. Maybe you fall or something," he said.

Hence, when serving in the Cory Aquino years and again under the incumbent President Aquino, Rubio said he always made it a point to greet Mr. Brown.

"In fact, I've been very lucky thinking bad has happened to me," he said. "I guess if I'm making them and you happen to hear me say 'Mr. Brown,' hey, you might say I'm very superstitious. But still, sometimes it's good to take precautions."

Mr. Aquino made the declaration at the launch of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and the International Year of Forests in Southeast Asia.

"In making it a heritage tree, it will constantly remind us of our obligations, both as citizens of this country and as stewards of this planet," he said, before unveiling a marker of the aerated bubble.

The President also signed a proclamation declaring the years 2011 to 2020 as National Decade on Biodiversity in the Philippines.

To be declared a heritage tree, the tree has to be deemed healthy, native or endemic, native, threatened and endangered ... with a minimum girth of 100 centimeters.

Under the Heritage Tree program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the tree will be allotted a five-meter protection zone around it and its caretakers will be given technical assistance.

Speaking to reporters later, the President said, "I haven't seen any like Jimmy or Mr. Black or Mr. White here."

"I've heard so many stories here, but I have yet to experience those myself," he added.

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PSC chair Garcia, Tropang Texters emcee in Forum

PHILIPPINE SPORTS Commissioner-chair Ronnie Garcia, along with members and officials of PBA Governor Commissioner Sally "B Sal" Bernardino guests, did it today's session of the PSC Forum at Shakey's sa Kamias. Rounding out the guests in the session-cum-fun were GSEP Sports Radio 97.9 host and commentator Smart Pagcor Lubbert Gatdula and Shakey's, are the Pizzaiolo Barbeng, enhound Sub scout Peter Jacinto gallons of the 1st Asian Club Basketball Championships in Singapore on June 11 and 12.

Editor Teodoro S. Malonzo
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

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PHOTOSPORTS SL Dragons import Cris dyer takes it hard on the basket of Dubai Iraq counterpart CJ Giles in yesterday's game

Smart Gilas five takes on tough Iraq today

By Cedell P. Tipan

THE HARD CHOICE begins tonight for Smart Gilas Pilipinas in the Nba-Asia Championship Cup.

After two convincing wins where they flustered a solid defense and a more run-and-gun game, the Nationals face a lot tougher test against Dubai of Iraq at 6 p.m. at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

The Filipinos share the Group B lead with powerhouse Al-Ittihad, which thumped Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad, 79-69, yesterday for its second victory in as many games.

"The tough teams are coming up," said Smart Gilas coach Siot Tenorio, whose squad amassed a lead in the quarterfinals with a 95-66 blowout against Malaysia's SL Dragons of Filipinos Sunday night.

"Iraq will be difficult. The team has quality. They have the size and low-post weapons."

Smart Gilas will be looking to take top spot in their group or finishing second would mean a quarterfinal duel with powerhouse teams like Al-Riyadi of Lebanon, Al-Rayyan of Qatar and defending champion Mahram of Iran.

Al-Riyadi, powered by Fadi El-Khatib's 23 points, moseyed to the top of Group B with its second straight win last night when it held off Mahram, 75-73.

In a rematch of the 2009 finals won by Mahram, El-Khatib buried two outliers but clinched it with 21 seconds remaining.

Al-Riyadi's 7-foot-2 center Loren Woods blocked Mahram 7-footer Saeid Chaibbi's game-tying triple at the buzzer, as Al-Riyadi dealt Mahram its first loss in three games.

The Iraqis finally broke into the win column yesterday by repulsing the Malaysians, 88-76.

One of Dubai's two imports, Cj Giles, is actually no stranger to Smart Gilas, having been a candidate to reinforce the national squad on a naturalized player before falling out of favor with the team two years ago.

While naturalized player Marcus Douthit has played a key role for Smart Gilas, the Nationals have been getting stellar contributions from everyone else in their first two games.

And the last isn't last on Dubai guard Omar Sarhan.

"They epitomize team basketball," the 6-foot-4 Cuzz said of future Gilas, which had six players scoring in double figures Sunday night.

"They are very family-oriented, that's why they play well together," Cuzz added.

"The beauty of this team is that anyone can deliver," said Brandon Hunstrom, a veteran of the 2007 and 2009 Nba Asia Championships.

Reasonably-priced tickets are available at SM Ticketnet outlets, with gallery seats costing P50.

The Score
Final Game
Philippines 118 – Samuel III, Cagulan 16, Al Iraqi 11, Pinaka 11, Ildefonso 7, Mahinay 7, Tenorio 7, Cabahug 6, Lanchi Mahinay 10 – Ilusa 28, Tolentino 11, Ildefonso 10, Al Iraqi 10, Cagulan 10, Pinaka 10, Samuel III 10, Mahinay 10, Tenorio 10, Cabahug 10, Lanchi Mahinay 10
Malaysia 76 – Jamal 19, Ong 16, Ismail 10, Ismail 12, Mohd 8, Ajmal, Ismail 6
Quarterscores: 1st 18-16; 2nd 37-35; 3rd 57-56; 4th 76-76
Philippines 118 – Samuel III, Cagulan 16, Al Iraqi 11, Pinaka 11, Ildefonso 7, Mahinay 7, Tenorio 7, Cabahug 6, Lanchi Mahinay 10
Malaysia 76 – Jamal 19, Ong 16, Ismail 10, Ismail 12, Mohd 8, Ajmal, Ismail 6
Quarterscores: 1st 18-16; 2nd 37-35; 3rd 57-56; 4th 76-76

Mondilla paces Philippine Am q'fying

By Marvang B. Corvilla

CLYDE MONDILLA launched his bid for a second national title by firing a one-over-par 72 yesterday to pace the qualifying round of the 2011 Philippine Amateur golf championship at Black Mesh East.

The long-hitting 17-year-old, who won at his course in Sta. Mesa last year, grained down three birdies to counteract four bogeys and grabbed a one-stroke lead over Justin Quibuh heading into the final 18 holes of the 45-hole play-stage.

Mondilla's last birdie came on the par-5 12th as he acquitted himself well on the same course where he missed the 36-hole cut of the record Philippine Open won by American Brian Harman over Filipino Jay Bayron.

Quibuh assembled rounds of 36-38 for 74, with burly Jeik Mata and lanky Brent Kalaw jumping both shooting 76s to boost their chances of getting light assignments to the tricky play-stage of the tournament co-hosted by Manuel Bianca and SDC Land and backed by Great Depot, Callaway and Odyssey Golf.

Rupert Zuraguen III, the pushcart 12 year-old who won the junior session of this event at Alabang just over a week ago, gained out a 77 that was way better than the scores of some of the occupying big guns.

Reuben King Archbenier and 15-year-old Gilvanne Gin Gandiangco fired 78s even as title favorites Lucio Boy Cadoz and Jobin Carlos limped home with 81s.

Jonah Abalos and Andie Unson, meanwhile, posted women's play with 79s, four clear of Sunshine Bacsafra, Chilvin Reola and Daniela Uy.

Wack Wack president Philip Ella Jesio said the first big amateur event the club is hosting since a massive three-year renovation that started in 2008 is part of the effort to help amateur golf.

"Many are just say that with the cooperation of the Wack Wack board (of directors), we're making Wack Wack available for junior golf to help develop the sport we all love," Jesio said.

Marchaie Mayuyu, the former PH team member on a comeback mid-air try surprising a bogey in the United States, fired an 89 as the tough, and tall rough of the East course sent scores soaring in the high 80s and 90s.

ON TARGET Clyde Mondilla heads with a 71.

Palaro-PNG-B. Pinoy merger under study

By Jane Navarro

BACOLOD – There's a serious effort to keep the Palarong Pambansa, Batang Pinoy and the Philippine National Games into one big operation.

Commissioner Jolly Gomez of the Philippine Sports Commission said the sports agency and the Philippine Olympic Committee will soon meet with top officials of the Department of Education to consolidate the country's grassroots development programs.

Joplid has been handling the Palaro while the just-concluded PNG held Saturday was a joint effort of the PSC and the POC, along with the Olympic body's national sports associations.

The Batang Pinoy, which will make a comeback in October following a seven-year hiatus, is also for grassroots athletes (aged) by the PSC and POC for athletes 12 years and younger.

"We'll try to see how we can align all our games together," said Gomez, the PSC's point man in the PNG.

He said the host of the unified games must have Olympic standard facilities to accommodate the sports to be played and enough accommodations for the expected huge turnout of athletes, coaches and officials.

"We want to draw up a criteria for the host city before we start to entertain them," said Gomez.

The Palaro has been the breeding ground of the best public elementary and secondary school athletes while the PNG is open to all athletes and national aspirants.

CORE HOOPLA Muntinlupa Mayor Aldrin Abalos (center) makes the ceremonial toss, firing off the first ceremonial phase of the 2nd Coca-Cola/Hoopla MCB Championship at the Muntinlupa Sports Complex Lunduing on Jan. Her left, are former PBA star Rodney Santos, tournament commissioner Jim Ilpa, Powerade team manager Gerard Francisco, and JB Baylon, Tigers governor and Coca-Cola Export PR for communications and public affairs.

Airforce Rider, Global Smartmatic meet for title; Azkals vs UFL-All stars set

The United Football League champion will be ahead Wednesday night when defending titlist Global Smartmatic takes on Airforce Rider in the Finals first set against the host from the season at the University of Makati pitch.

The showdown in the league's top two teams was supposed to be played Tuesday night but the poor condition of the pitch caused by the rain forced the league to reschedule the clash.

As it stands, the Finals only needs a draw to crown the second champion in the league's three-year history as Global Smartmatic (4 wins, 1 draw) has an insurmountable 13-point advantage over the Riders (4 wins, 1 loss).

The league is actively on the tournament's last week and will be hosting a lot of another interesting match that will set the UFL All Stars against the Philippine Azkals on Sunday, June 5, at Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Tickets for the match are priced at P1000 and will be available at UBC branches in SM North Edsa, Trinoma, SM Megamall, Market Market, Glorietta, Park Square, SM Rosal, Alabang Town Center and Venice.

The proceeds from the game will go to the Azkals, who are preparing for the 2014 Fifa World Cup Qualifiers where they will meet Sri Lanka in the first round.

Last Sunday's matches saw Loyola Meralco Sparks overwhelming Green Archers United, 7-nought, 6-0, and Pasargad Davao edging out Kaya-Ilonggo, 3-2, after battling to a 2-2 draw in a fight-filled match that could have had players get sent off.

The result ended that derby with four points, while Kaya-Ilonggo remained in third with 10 points, six clear of Pasargad.

Loyola temporarily moved up to fourth with 13 points, but Kaya, with 14, still has a game in hand.

Green Archers will finish the season's campaign at home instead of their last match.

Arnie expanded his scoring to Meralco Pelaya and Marvin Steele, whose 37th minute strike turned out to be the last goal of the game.

The Sharkmen opened the scoring for Kaya with a cross-shot of a corner from Dagoldo. Ogbeche headed the match with a free kick in the 20th minute.

Meralco and Manolo gave Kaya a 2-1 lead at halftime, leading Arnie keeper Joshua Shapen with a well-placed right-footed strike.

But the match's fate brought to it with Reynolds also scoring after a scuffle broke out involving players from both Kaya and Meralco, leading to a reminder of mayhem, several players from the team joined the fray.

Meralco coach Dan Palami goalkeeper also got involved in the melee, as well as Kaya's Jeffrey Lorenzo. The two were also sent off for violent conduct.

The Azkals were boosted by five natural-born goals by Stab Huntemann, whose remarkable scoring from playing in the second division for Nomads early in the year has continued with Loyola.

Loyola Archers seemed poised to the year-end when Chavez Pastor scored a header from half goals. But Huntemann had other plans in order, finishing Loyola's season with a flourish.

ABC 5 nails five-year contract to telecast PBA games

By Ramon Hachacha

ABC 5 shows TV is set to sail o the seas' coverage of the Philippine Basketball Association beginning with the 2011-2012 season in September follow- ing the withdrawal of ABS-CBN from the broadcasting league last Friday.

"After the evaluation, ABS-CBN decided that they would no longer submit a bid for the right to cover the PBA games," PBA commissioner Chito Salud told the business yesterday.

Salud said MBS-CBN, which had earlier submitted a Letter of Intent to bid for the TV franchise, informed the league at around 4 p.m. Friday that it was pulling out of the bidding process.

He added that a little before 5 p.m. on the same day the ABC sports 5 sealed bid came in. It was opened only yesterday.

Salud said he could not disclose the amount of the bid but revealed that ABC 5 had agreed to cover the games for five years as stipulated in the PBA board's terms of reference.

In addition, ABC 5 also complied with the base franchise fee of P600 million for five years.

Salud described the new development as "an auspicious moment for the PBA because ABC TV5 "believes in the product and has made a bid that matches at least the financial terms and other requirements of the board."

Salud said they would ask ABC 5 to first make a presentation to the PBA management committee and then to the board "for its approval or disapproval."

He said he expects the presentation to be made "hopefully within the week and to the PBA board as soon as possible so that by June we'll have this contract signed, sealed and delivered."

Salud and the committee met with ABC 5 COO Bobby Barrera yesterday and saw the initial presentation for Friday.

Salud conceded that the PBA had approved ABS-CBN's shoulder-to-shoulder operations only on one point, "which means that we stuck to our original terms."

PBA chair Rene Pardo said that ABS-CBN was "tasked to bid based on the terms of reference so that once the bids are open we can discuss the... details."

He said one of the issues concerned product lockouts, where brands who compete with the products carried by PBA teams were not allowed. But Pardo said the league "realized it is a little and only allowed two brands to be locked out when a team is playing."

He cited as example that "if Purefoods is not playing, they can get Swift to advertise on the TV coverage."

Paragua seizes World Cup slot

PARAGUA—A third ticket to the World Cup of chess.

PBA standings (Philippine arena cup/s): 1 b – 2. Hapee- to (Aut 5-3); 3. Pampa, 7 (Jump Jim, 6; Salem, 6-6 – 4. Barra, 6; Mallo 6-6; 5. Lapu-lu, 6; Asturias, 5; Quiboloy 5; Bacolod, 5; Bohol, 5; Cebu, 5; Dumaguete, 5; Iloilo, 5; Kalibo, 5; Legazpi, 5; Naga, 5; Ormoc, 5; Tacloban, 5; Tagbilaran, 5; Tuguegarao, 5; Zamboanga, 5; Aklan, 4; Antique, 4; Bacolod, 4; Bohol, 4; Cebu, 4; Dumaguete, 4; Iloilo, 4; Kalibo, 4; Legazpi, 4; Naga, 4; Ormoc, 4; Tacloban, 4; Tagbilaran, 4; Tuguegarao, 4; Zamboanga, 4; Aklan, 3; Antique, 3; Bacolod, 3; Bohol, 3; Cebu, 3; Dumaguete, 3; Iloilo, 3; Kalibo, 3; Legazpi, 3; Naga, 3; Ormoc, 3; Tacloban, 3; Tagbilaran, 3; Tuguegarao, 3; Zamboanga, 3; Aklan, 2; Antique, 2; Bacolod, 2; Bohol, 2; Cebu, 2; Dumaguete, 2; Iloilo, 2; Kalibo, 2; Legazpi, 2; Naga, 2; Ormoc, 2; Tacloban, 2; Tagbilaran, 2; Tuguegarao, 2; Zamboanga, 2; Aklan, 1; Antique, 1; Bacolod, 1; Bohol, 1; Cebu, 1; Dumaguete, 1; Iloilo, 1; Kalibo, 1; Legazpi, 1; Naga, 1; Ormoc, 1; Tacloban, 1; Tagbilaran, 1; Tuguegarao, 1; Zamboanga, 1; Aklan, 0; Antique, 0; Bacolod, 0; Bohol, 0; Cebu, 0; Dumaguete, 0; Iloilo, 0; Kalibo, 0; Legazpi, 0; Naga, 0; Ormoc, 0; Tacloban, 0; Tagbilaran, 0; Tuguegarao, 0; Zamboanga, 0

Vettel bags fifth GP win at Monaco

MONACO—Sebastian Vettel profited from a large stroke of fortune to win Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix and strengthen his championship lead, beating Fernando Alonso and Jenson Button in a thrilling and incident-packed race that several drivers failed to finish.

Defending F1 champion Vettel has won five of six races for Red Bull this season, with only Hickinson's Lewis Hamilton beating him to China.

"It was unbelievable, the race today was pretty unconvincing," Vettel, who started from pole position for the fifth time this season, said. "The realness button must have popped last night and kept on going."

Reigning world champion Hamilton, who had Red Bull teammate Mark Webber by his side for 67 and Alonso by 74.

"We need to win three races and (Vettel) not to score," Alonso joked. "At the moment I don't think it's possible."

Alonso's second place is the best performance of the season for the two-time former F1 champion. Webber finished fourth, ahead of Japan's Kamui Kobayashi and Williams.

Seven-time former champion Michael Schumacher, Ferrari's Felipe Massa, and Vitaly Petrov, whose Renault was involved in the late crash that halted the race, were among those who failed to finish. AP

RUSSIA'S Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova hits a forehand at compatriot Vera Zvonareva during their fourth round match.

Novak gains semis; Roger sets new mark

PARIS—Roger Federer set yet another record by reaching the French Open quarterfinals Sunday and Novak Djokovic closed in on a spot of his own.

Federer extended his quarterfinal streak at major tournaments to 38 with a 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 victory over 19-year-old Frenchman Jeremy Chardy.

"Twenty-eight quarterfinals in a row, that's great," Federer said. "But that's another opportunity for me to go on (to) the last day."

Shortly after Federer's match on Court Philippe Chatrier, Djokovic outstayed his partner Sunday by beating Richard Gasquet of France, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

The fresh latter gained a Final Four slot after his supposed quarterfinal foe, seventh Italian Fabio Fognini, who injured a muscle in his left leg while beating Albert Montanes on Sunday, announced Monday that he would not be able to play Djokovic.

"I'm definitely playing the best tennis of my life," said Djokovic, who reached his overall winning streak to 44 matches. "I'm trying to stay focused on each game and we'll see how far I can go."

Federer and Djokovic could meet in the semifinals.

Also Sunday, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova knocked out the highest seeded player remaining in the women's draw, beating Kvitova in Swiss in, 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-2 to earn a spot in the quarterfinals. Defending champion Francesca Schiavone also advanced, by defeating No. 30 Jelena Jankovic, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

Federer, a 16-time major champion who completed a career Grand Slam at Roland Garros in 2009, improved on the record he shared with Jimmy Connors as Court Philippe Chatrier. The last time Federer failed to reach the quarterfinals at a major was at the 2004 French Open, when he was the top-seeded player but lost to Gustavo Kuerten in the third round.

In the next round, Federer will face either No. 7 David Ferrer or No. 9 Gael Monfils.

Djokovic is 41-4 in 2011, including a pair of clay court final wins over top-ranked Rafael Nadal. AP

Nowitzki: Mavs just want to win

LOS ANGELES— When the NBA Finals start in Miami on Tuesday, Dirk Nowitzki may be in Munich, the Mavericks will become the latest team from Dallas to take on the so-called "Curse of the Cities" when they face the Heat in Game 1 of the best-of-seven series.

For reasons Dirks might bite, the title-never-jinx has exactly fooled the title hopes of teams from the Texas city since the NBA was founded there only Sunday Cup in 1999.

The Mavs have already "accomplished" more in the same month as only the second time since they were founded in 1980, they have reached the NBA finals where they will meet again, take on the Heat.

Five years ago, Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavericks were seemingly on their way to their first championship reign after winning the first two games of the series at home and leading Miami by 13 points late in the third.

However, they lost their game along with the next three as Dwyane Wade took charge and Dallas had to send the same veterans before looking their place in the 2006-11 championship reign against the Cavaliers appetizer.

"It's been a long stretch," Nowitzki said of the Mavericks won the best-of-seven Western Conference Finals series, 4-1, over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

"After the guys we beat in the Finals, we came back, won almost 70 games, had a good season, and had in the first round (of the playoffs)."

It has certainly been a long wait for the Mavericks to clear rid for NBA Championship glory since their formation as a franchise. Cleveland in late ago.

German giant Nowitzki, the ninth overall pick in the 1998 Draft, joined the franchise from Milwaukee and, with Michael Finley and Steve Nash, formed a big "three" that paved the way for the Mavericks to return to the playoffs in 2001.

Although Nash soon went to the Phoenix Suns in 2004 and Finley was picked up off waivers by the San Antonio Spurs in 2005, the 7-foot-Nowitzki has stayed on to help Dallas reach the postseason every year since.

"We've got a bunch of veterans who want success and play off each other," said Nowitzki. "That's what makes this group special, everybody sacrificing for each other. We just want to win." Reuters

THE Dallas Mavericks Jason Kidd and Dirk Nowitzki (right), begin their NBA Finals duel against the Miami Heat on Tuesday.

Sudirman Cup bets tipped to rule PBaRS second leg

MEMBERS OF the Philippine team which finished second in the recent Sudirman Cup plunge into action today at the start of the second leg of the MVP Sports Foundation-Philippine Badminton Federation Ranking System (PBaRS) tournament at the Pasong Tamo Sports Complex in Quezon City.

Mahfuzah Aini Alcala, Bianca Calma, Gelim Casilo, Antonette Gail, Jopet Pavia and Peter Magnaye entered the women's 2 tournament finals in Level 4 of the Badminton Cup in China.

The 14-year-old Alcala, who skipped the inaugural last March because of competitions abroad, will be making her debut in the week-long PLAtform event.

Gail, the 2010 double gold medalist in the Under-19 division, will be making her debut in the Open and Under-19 to her plus the girls doubles pivots in the Under-19 and the team events in the Under-19 category. She will have her hands full this time with the entry of Alcala and the rest of the country's leading players.

Each Open event's titlist will be challenged by the likes of Jocelyn Magnaye, Paul Vivas, Kevin Bellamy, Aiden delos Santos and Gabriel Villanueva.

The event will award P70,000 to the winners in the Open class while the champions in the U-19 and U-15 divisions will get P50,000 and P18,000, respectively.

Davao will host the other regional tournament on July 31 to Aug. 5. The finals will be played Oct. 22 to 29 in Manila. For details, log on to www.pbars.com.ph or send to info@pbars.com. Ajay Elloa, Contributor

ALCALA: Tournament favorite

S'woods members' golf tomorrow

A 1-LUTER Forex/Ace/MCL Club Cup golf tour and an all-expense paid trip to Boracay courtesy of 107 Boracay are at stake in a 54-hole tournament tomorrow at the Legends Course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

The 18-hole tournament, organized primarily to foster camaraderie among Filipino executives as well as the growing roster of international members, will also save funds for the Manila Southwoods golfers within itself.

Format of play is Individual with handicap applied for members and System 36 for guests.

Trophies will be awarded to the top two places in Class A for Individual Gross (1-2), Class B (3-8) to 2W and Class C for 2D to 3S in the men's division and Class A (1-3) to 3D and Class B (4-6) for ladies.

For inquiries, call tournament director Marco Santander at 09.17.8909464.

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SIGNING the contract for Toyota's sponsorship of the tournament are (from left) Cheng Boxal, Elizabeth Lim, Toyota vice president for vehicle sales Raymond Rodriguez, and Manila Southwoods directors Manson Su Jr. and Jimmy Devanie.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the Asian Hospital and Medical Center as you celebrate your 9th Anniversary. May you further build on your nine years of professional excellence and dedication to raising the standards of your services, that you may serve the Filipino people to the best of their interests.

The Asian Hospital and Medical Center has shown much potential even in your early years. Your efforts to provide nothing but the best services to your patients and clients are, indeed, admirable. We are grateful that this skilled professionals among your ranks, through your actions, have pledged to help our government deliver our promise of a healthier and a more empowered citizenry. It is my fervent hope that you continue your tradition of delivering medical and health services with much skill, fervor, and integrity. In this way, you can help establish a better and more equitably progressive Philippines, one where every Filipino has access to quality healthcare – where every Filipino is secure in his conviction that his welfare is of the utmost priority to the state.

As the daylight of hope and reform illuminates our paths, the time has come for us to veer away from the crooked system of greed and apathy and forge a system that will bring about the genuine, lasting change we have all been awaiting for. The road we have taken may not be the easiest, but I am confident that with our collective efforts, we can surmount any obstacle and we can prove the strength of our characters. We are steadfastly moving toward the fulfillment of our aspirations.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
President of the Republic of the Philippines

PAMAHALAANG LUNGSOD NG MUNTINLUPA

MESSAGE

My cordial greetings and best wishes to the medical staff and administration of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center on the occasion of its 9th anniversary this May 2011.

On this occasion, let me extend my sincere appreciation for your continued commitment in providing quality and world-class medical and healthcare services to our people. Our administration has placed the health of our constituents at the center of our socio-economic programs and targets. We believe that they deserve no less than the same quality of healthcare services advanced and modern countries provide for their people.

I urge you to strongly support our city government's vital health programs that promote the total well being of our people. I am heartened to know the AHMC is our dedicated partner in the realization of this worthy goal. Together, we strive to achieve the highest level of health care delivery with excellence and affordability.

May your success in safeguarding the health of your patients be your inspiration as you carry on with your mission to cure those who are not in the best of health. It is also our city government's thrust to uplift the quality of life and improve the health for all of us. Please accept my gratitude for your support to the City of Muntinlupa as among its partners in community service particularly in the health care sector. It is my sincere hope that we continue to work together in providing quality service to our people.

Again, I congratulate the administration and staff of AHMC including its medical professionals, doctors and nurses for their expertise and commitment in maintaining compassionate and holistic approach to health care. May you always pursue your chosen profession with a deep commitment to professional excellence and with selfless concern for the welfare and best interests of the people.

I wish that your institution would remain an indispensable partner of the city government in protecting the health and welfare of our people.

ALDRIN L. SAN PEDRO
City Mayor

ASIAN HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

YEAR NINE: Expanding Facilities For Your Growing Needs

Quality of service. This has been the single-minded thrust of Asian Hospital and Medical Center for the past nine years.

"We believe excellent caring is the most important part of healthcare. Giving only the best care to anyone that comes to us for medical care is non-negotiable", says Theo Sadler, CEO.

Asian Hospital and Medical Center is the first facility of its kind in the Southern Luzon corridor that stands ten-storey high on a sprawling, landscaped 17,250 square meter compound—encompassing the main hospital, outpatient service centers, a conference facility and a medical office building.

Our five-star-hotel ambience—lobby, waiting areas and corridors, lounges, patients' rooms, and public areas—make people feel like guests on a sabbatical rather than patients on a sick bed.

To treat you our patients the essence of our service, we invest in highly efficient technology. For instance, our 64Ch. CT Scan that serve all departments, the Fully-Integrated Minimally Invasive Operating Room, the special OR-Spare Table (the only one in Southeast Asia) for Orthopedic procedures, considerably reduce our patient's discomfort, time in the hospital, and their exposure to radiation.

We take pride in our Heart Station and new Catheterization Laboratory that answer the preventive and restorative needs of patients through advanced diagnostic machines. We have innovated the Total Joint Replacement Unit for surgical care of patients with arthritis, joint problems, and sports-related injuries. We provide comprehensive cancer treatments, focusing on early detection through the latest available technologies and minimally invasive procedures with machines that visualize minute details.

In March 2000, Bumrungrad Hospital became the partner of Asian Hospital and Medical Center. As a result, we are benefiting from the knowledge base of a world-class hospital.

We are looking at a future where excellent medical services will be affordable and available to all. We dream of a Center of Excellence where major hospitals can team up, share equipment and expertise to serve the people for whom we all exist.

On our 9th year, we have taken steps to make this happen, and take healthcare to the next level.

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www.asianhospital.com

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Lifunday

3 more join women bus drivers plying Metro

By Penelope Endaya

MAKE way for Metro Manila's new women bus drivers.

Thirteen of them are ready to hit the road after graduating from the special accreditation course designed by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

(MORE)

Cops nab cab-riding robbers in QC

Police say suspects also molested victims who were call center agents

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE POLICE have arrested two men who picked up call center agents working the graveyard shift in a taxi cab and then robbed and molested them.

Supt. Orencio de Guzman, the head of the Quezon City Police District Station 9, identified the two men as Alvson Garbo, 27, and Ramon Paz Cacho, 29.

De Guzman said the two men were able to victimize at least five call center agents before they were arrested.

Their last victim said she was robbed by the two men in Batasan Avenue, Quezon City after she got into their taxi cab at around 6 p.m. on Thursday. She told the police that the two took cell phones, an undetermined amount of cash and other valuables.

The police said the two men were arrested in a taxi cab with the name Sevenjem (TPN 5666). One of them would pose as the taxi driver while the other would crouch down on the floor of the front passenger seat.

To hide him from the passenger's view, the man would be lifted forward.

"Once the female passenger [got into the taxi cab], the victim would appear and declare the hold," De Guzman said in

COPS WAB | C2

GOLDEN SUNSET A man sets up his traps at Manila Bay as the rain eases and casts a golden glow in Parañaque City. AP/ROMEO RANOCO

DID YOU KNOW

THERE WERE 17,228 reported dengue cases in the country from Jan. 1 to April 2 this year, slightly higher than the 17,172 cases reported in the same period in 2010. Of the total figure this year, 33 percent or 4,206 cases were from the National Capital Region.

Sahara Gonzales, Inquirer Research

ERRATUM

In a news release that appeared on the Learning section of the May 23 issue, Krannert Management website address was inadvertently typed as ph.krannerglobal.com.ph. The correct address is http://ph.krannerglobal.com. We regret the error.

APOCALYPSE NOW...
HOW NEAR ARE WE TO THE END OF THE WORLD ?

MATTHEW 24:32-35

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BIBLICAL PROPHECY IS FULFILLING IN OUR TIME AND BEFORE OUR EYES. JESUS SAID IN LUKE 12:56, "... YOU KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET THE APPEARANCE OF THE EARTH AND THE SKY. HOW IS IT THAT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET THIS PRESENT TIME?" COME AND JOIN US FOR AN EYE OPENING DISCUSSION ON END TIME EVENTS. FIND OUT WHERE WE ARE NOW IN PROPHECY DIRECTLY FROM THE PAGES OF THE BIBLE.

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Polish drug mule nabbed in Manila

By Jaymee T. Gamil

A POLISH woman believed to be a member of the West African Drug Syndicate (WADS) has been arrested in an anti-narcotic operation conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Barbara Eva Zwankowska, a 39-year-old native of Poland who lives in Dublin, Ireland, was picked up by agents at a hotel in Ermita, Manila, on Saturday.

Her arrest was part of a follow-up operation following the capture of another member of the syndicate, an Irish-nigerian woman, earlier this month.

Marlo Apolinario was arrested on May 18 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport based on a tip from a tracked to another flier.

A search of her suitcase yielded 3.26 kilos of high-grade kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" valued at P17 million.

Zwankowska recently arrived in the country to take the drugs from Apolinario, a third time, who already in the custody of the NBI.

The syndicate, however, was apparently unaware that Apolinario had been arrested because a leader of the group, identified only as Freddy, continued to call her up to give instructions.

Upon the NBI's confirmation, Apolinario told Freddy that she was sick and would not deliver the drugs to Malaysia and Jordan anymore. NBI official Ross Jonathan Cadiz is said.

Freddy then told her that he would send another courier to a hotel in Manila to take over her job.

COUNTDOWN TO SCHOOL
A group of children take a dip in Manila Bay as they count down the days until the opening of classes. (MACX ARCENEAUX)

Flight delays caused by air traffic congestion

TERMINAL Robinson (ROL) is again living up to its other nickname, Plane Always Late.

Lately, planes of the nine-unit flag carrier have been consistently delayed in their departure and arrival schedules.

But the culprit is not to blame, I was told.

I took PAL this weekend and the previous weekend and noted the planes delayed in their departures.

On May 21, Saturday, my OIC plane to Puerto Princesa was scheduled to leave 10 a.m., but it left at 11 a.m.

I was with my 15-year-old goddaughter to take to the Underground River as it was her first time to Puerto Princesa. It was also her first plane ride.

Since we arrived at 12 noon in the "city within a forest," we wanted to be approximately to ride the tunnel river that day as we had planned.

The trip to the Underground River takes two hours and a boat ride at the world-famous site takes another 30 minutes.

We would have to wait an hour

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

to take the boat and another hour waiting for a boat ride into the Underground River.

The boat ride inside the river cave was at 2 p.m.

I was able to take my goddaughter to the river the following day, Sunday, which we could have spent going to other tourist attractions in the city.

The trip back to Manila was not delayed.

But yesterday the PAL plane I took in Davao City to return to Manila was delayed by three hours.

I woke up very early at the hotel where I stayed in so I could be at the Davao International Airport one hour before the scheduled departure time of 7 a.m.

Six hours after time the plane took off—11:30 a.m! In short, it was three and a half hours late!

When I got out of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Terminal 2) it was 12:30 p.m.

Because of the lousy traffic from the airport to my office in Pasay (Inquirer-DZIQ in Makati City), I barely made it to my public service program, "Bombong ito kay Tulfo," at 1:00 p.m.

I've seen many boxes and crosses have been hurt because of delayed flights not only in PAL but in other airlines as well.

I have it on good authority that PAL is not to blame for the delayed flights but the congested airport and runway at Naia.

Last year, Naia Terminal 1 could only take in 4.5 million passengers a year, but it welcomed 7.2 million passengers.

Naia Terminal 2 can accommodate 7.5 million passengers, but it took in 8.9 million passengers.

Since 2009, Naia has been congested because domestic and international flights have increased by huge and bounds.

But the two runways have not expanded and neither were there improvements in the terminal buildings to make these bigger.

Adding to problem of lack of space are the small planes that enter the international airport from home base, Cebu and Davao, by the Mabuhay.

The small aircraft and lack capitan have another airfield, according to experts, to alleviate just the Naia runways.

The government should have informed the public about the congestion problem at the Naia but it has not done so.

If the traffic congestion at the Manila International Airport (MIA), which houses Naia 1, 2, 3 and the domestic terminals, is not addressed, it will become worse in the months ahead.

Before we know it, many international airlines will refuse to land their aircraft at the MIA because of the flight delays that could translate to major losses to line and money.

13 more join...

From page A1

The training included lane-driving drills basic troubleshooting and knowledge of road laws, said Edward Gonzales, head of the Road Emergency Group.

One of the new drivers is Ateneo lawyer, 38, Arlauna Gaudes.

"This is a new beginning for me," she said. "The morning was hard, but after it was over, we now know how to be responsible professional bus drivers."

Arroyo says it was some people discontent encouragement they have to help drivers.

"Without drivers we cannot serve drivers," said the new bus driver, who is in the batch driving graduation rites at the SMDC compound in Makati City.

For Elden Bequia, 32, it was a matter of being appointed from the Philippine Commuters Foundation Inc.

"It's nothing new to me," said Bequia, who had been plying the Davao City-Compostela-Mandaluyong route since 2004. "It was easier for me to adjust, compared to the other applicants."

While a few had also been used to driving delivery trucks, none said they had answered a newspaper ad looking for women bus drivers. The training program cost P5,000 for each applicant.

The other drivers are Leonora Lagunas, Lizbeth Saude, Shirlann Adlawan, Carolina Magbalia, Teresita Sandoval, Josephine Guevara, Yolanda Dueñas, Estibeth Ramos, Amelia Gon, Grace Serrano and Perla Guerrero.

They will join 10 other women drivers belonging to the first batch already playing the streets of Manila and hired by SM Transport Inc. Co., Philippine and SMCC Transport Systems Group.

The new drivers will be assigned to other bus lines this week.

Caloocan City bans public drinking to prevent crimes

By Kristine Felice Mangueng

IN AN attempt to reduce crime in the city, Caloocan Mayor Enrico Echavez has ordered the strict implementation of a recently approved ordinance which bans drinking in public places, particularly in the streets.

Ordinance No. 0927 prohibits the consumption of alcohol and rowdy merrymaking out in the open which, most of the time, result in violence in an area known for the proliferation of petty crimes.

According to the mayor, the ban on public drinking will reduce chronic criminal cases most of the time, those who get involved in these situations have been drinking beforehand.

He added, however, that people would be allowed to drink publicly on special occasions such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, Christmas and New Year provided they get permission from barangay officials at least a week before the event.

Violators face between two months and one year of imprisonment or a fine ranging from P1,000 to P5,000 depending on the court's discretion, Echavez said.

He added that the ordinance would be strictly enforced by the city police and barangay officials.

"With the strict implementation of this ordinance, we can expect fewer street fights, brawls and crimes in our streets," Echavez said.

METRO
NEW
Citizen's Call

- Overtaken on the road by a driver illegally using a "siren wang" (siren)?
- Garbage dumped on your street outside your door?
- Street clogging forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up to some against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Award by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact to your community?
- Got stuck in pollution?
- Fed up with running and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/detestable finds on your way to work?

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INQUIRER

'Move Bilibid inmates to Army reservation'

By Jaymee T. Gamil

A FORMER congressman yesterday urged Malacañang to decongest New Bilibid Prison (NBP) by transferring the inmates occupying the compound to the Fort Magsaysay Military Reservation in Nueva Ecija.

At the Kapihan sa Diamond Hotel forum, former Nueva Ecija Rep. Rustico Jose, now president of Jose commerce Investment Corp., said what can stand 500 to 1,000 hectares of the 31,000-ha Army reservation had yet to be developed.

According to him, inmates from the minimum security compound can be made to render community service by participating in watershed reforestation, farming and livelihood training. The prisoners will be under the guard of soldiers who can serve as an augmentation force for jail guards.

Jose added that the transfer of the minimum security inmates could also help ease the drug syndicates operations like the Mill-Reginaldo group that is reportedly operating inside the NBP.

At the same time, he said that most of the prisoners is crowded city and provincial jails could be transferred to Fort Magsaysay, where the government has purchased a lot for the purpose over six of the national penitentiaries.

Jose suggested that a committee be created to look into the proposal. Results of that study could be held there, resulting the need for inmates to be transported to court for hearings.

The former congressman said the recently exposed security lapses at the NBP following the arrest of former Pampanga Governor Ed Panlilio only underscore the urgent need to relocate the prisoners elsewhere.

"The prison should serve as "a wake-up call" for the government.

Cops nab...

From page A1

an interview.

Afterward, one of the men would take the victim's valuables while his cohort would gouge him.

The police said the two men were identified after one of their victims memorized the taxi cab's plate number to his boyfriend before she boarded it.

Inspector told the boyfriend that the address would lumpen with the taxi cab's license plate before going out to look for their taxi cab.

The two suspects were nabbing tape to make it appear like a totally different plate number. Sometimes they would change the 8 into 3 or the 6 into 5," he said.

On Friday evening, a retiring police car spotted the taxi cab on Quezon Boulevard, Quiapo.

The police followed the cab and it pulled into a gasoline station on Mayhem Avenue.

Its occupants were then picked up by the police for questioning. As the police station, the two men were positively identified by some of their victims.

METROBRIEFS

Cops to search 'chop shop' of stolen vehicles

The Southern Police District (SPD) expects to witness mass stolen vehicles at a suspected "chop shop" to detect last week in a Taguig City warehouse where a car that had been hijacked in Laguna was recovered by police on Monday evening.

Supt. Federico Dulay said the raid conducted by a composite team of operatives yielded enough evidence to suspect that the warehouse in Barangay Ususan, Taguig was used as a safe house where stolen vehicles in the Calabarzon region could be taken apart. "With the recovery of five vehicles, four of which were engines in the warehouse, we suspect that there are more vehicles in the warehouse," said Dulay, the Southern Police District deputy director for operations. He further added that the unit of Colonel Constantino Chiong opened its lines to the Laguna police. A global positioning system device in the truck allowed the police to track it down. With a search warrant, operatives of the SPD, Laguna Provincial Police Office, Taguig Police station, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Anti-Carnapping Task Force of the Philippine National Police (PNP) conducted the operation on Friday night.

Alex Marabe

Seminar on Europe career opportunities on June 1

PMG360 International Corp. is conducting a seminar on "Career and Work Opportunities in Europe" on Wednesday, June 1, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) Faculty Center Function Room in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. The seminar is free and open to all nursing, hotel and restaurant management and culinary arts graduates or undergraduates on how to pursue a professional career in Europe. Interested parties may call 6353-5849, 6353-4176, 6458-9837, 0908-9220340 or 0915-2036022 for more information. They may also send an e-mail to seminars.europe@gmail.com or visit their www.pmg360.com.

5-year-old boy needs P92,000 for chemotherapy

By Santiago B. Alconaba

JUSTIN Lapuz's parents are seeing against time to save him from acute leukemia.

Rommel and Elsie told the reporter in a letter that they need to work double time to raise enough money for their five-year-old son's treatment.

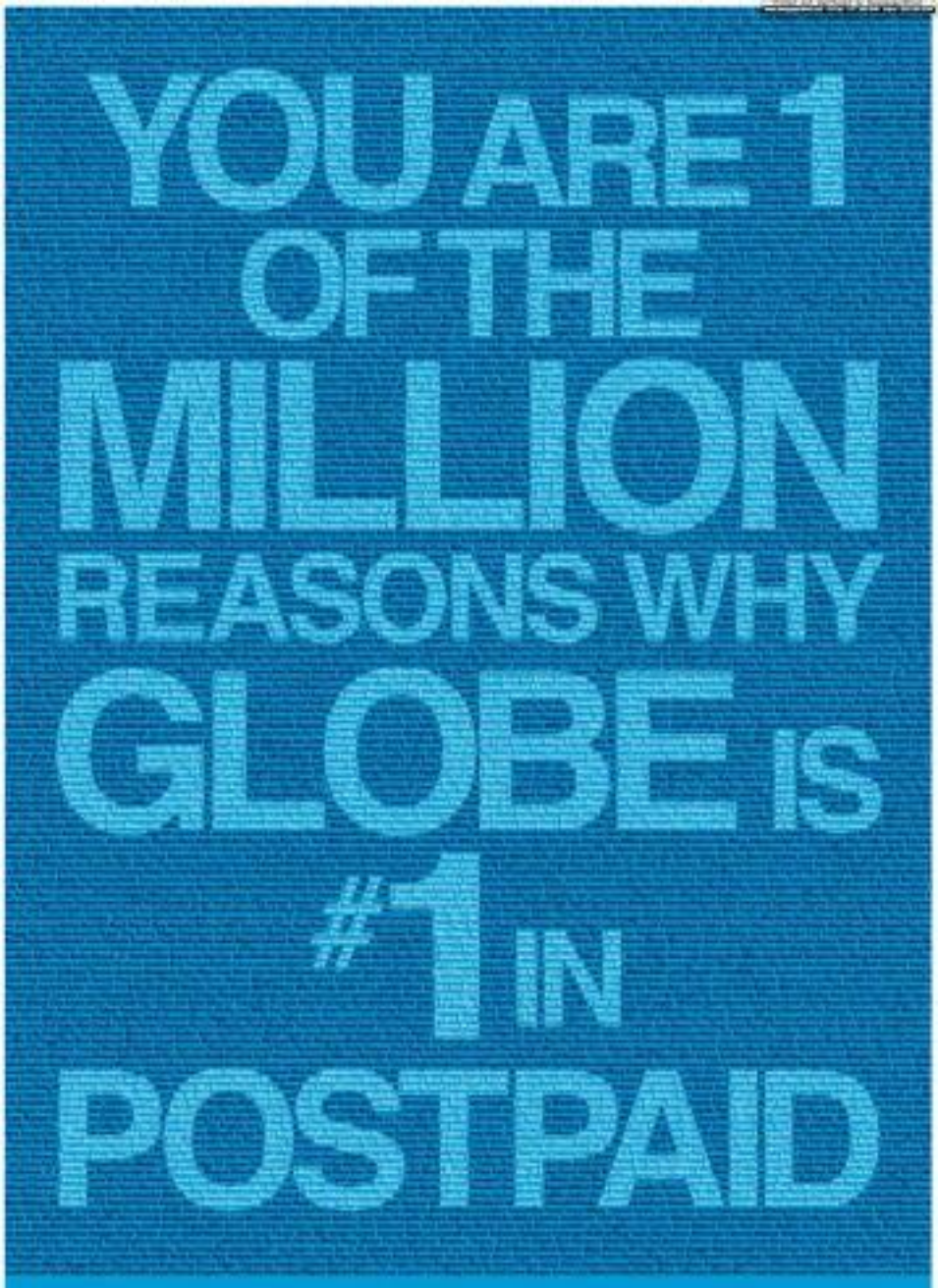
Justin needs to undergo 10 cycles of chemotherapy, with the cost 10 months. Each cycle costs P9,200.

"Each cycle therapy will last an hour. Of that one hour, blood is taken to see if the platelets are enough to buy medicines for the next cycle. Justin's medicine costs P75 a day," Elsie said in Filipino.

CAPTIVE

She added that because of his ailment, Justin would not be able to start kindergarten this year.

Elsie Lapuz can be contacted at (0946) 8686161. Donations can be deposited in her bank account with Banco de Oro (Unibank) City branch in Cavite province (with account number 6380060011).



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Germany to close all nuclear plants by 2022

BERLIN—Germany on Monday became the first major industrialized power to agree on a road to nuclear power in the wake of the disaster in Japan, with a phase-out due to be complete by 2022.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said the decision, hammered out by her center-right coalition overnight, marked the start of a "fundamental" rethink of energy policy in the world's number four economy.

"We want the electricity of the future to be safe and at the same time reliable and affordable," Merkel told reporters in order to spread the findings of an expert commission on nuclear power she appointed in March in response to the crisis in Japan's Fukushima plant.

"That means we must have a new approach to the supply network, energy efficiency, renewable energy and the long-term monitoring of the process," she said.

The commission found that it would be safe—within a decade for Germany—to shutdown all 17 of its nuclear reactors, eight of which are currently off-line for safety and maintenance.

Environment Minister Norbert Roettgen announced the gradual shutdown early Monday after seven hours of negotiations at Merkel's office between the ruling coalition partners. He said the decision was "irreversible." Seven of the plants already off-line are the country's oldest reactors, which the federal government shut down for three months pending a safety probe after the Fukushima emergency.

The eighth is the Krummel plant, in northern Germany, which has been offline for some time due to reported technical problems.

Merkel's decision made Germany the first major industrial power to announce plans to give up atomic energy entirely.

But it also means that the country will have to find the 22 percent of its electricity needs currently covered by nuclear power from other sources.

Roettgen insisted there was no danger of blackouts.

"We insist that the electricity supply will be ensured at all times and for all users," he pledged, without elaborating.

Already Friday the environmental ministers from all 16 German regional states had ratified the Bundestag's resolution on the moratorium to be made permanent.

Rooftops on Monday and Tuesday some of the eight reactors affected would be reactivated. No further reactors would be shut down by the end of 2021 and the three most modern would cease operations by the end of 2022.

Monday's decision is effectively a return to the timetable set by a previous Social Democrat-Green coalition government a decade ago.

It is a humbling U-turn for Merkel, who at the end of 2010 decided to extend the lifetime of Germany's 17 reactors by an average of 12 years, which would have kept them open until the mid-2030s.

That decision was unpopular as Germany's even before the earthquake and tsunami in March that severely damaged the Fukushima facility, which sparked mass anti-nuclear protests in Germany.

Merkel's u-turn on what has been a highly sensitive issue in the country since the 1970s has severely eaten up her ratings.

Her herself blamed the Fukushima catastrophe for recent state election defeats in which saw the anti-nuclear Greens gain ground.

Environmental pressure group Greenpeace welcomed the plans, but a nuclear watchdog has lamented it would take until 2022.

AFP

2 Fukushima workers may have exceeded radiation limit

TOKYO—Two workers at Japan's crippled nuclear power plant may have exceeded the government's radiation exposure limit, the plant operator said, adding to concerns about health risks for those fighting the world's worst nuclear disaster in 25 years.

If confirmed, it would mark the first case of excess radiation exposure among the hundreds of emergency workers who have struggled to bring Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi plant under control after it was wrecked by a massive earthquake and tsunami two and half months ago.

Both the government and the utility, Tepco, have come under fire for not disclosing enough information about radiation doses and the risks. Some experts question whether workers have been fully informed of the potential dangers.

"The problem is that too much policy has been focused on protecting Tepco and not enough on this public," said Kiyoshi Kurokawa, a medical doctor who served as a science adviser to the government from 2006-2008.

Measurements of external exposure and radioactive iodine in thick thyroid glands both pointed to the two male workers, one in his 30s and the other in his 40s, had surpassed the maximum set by the government of 250 millisieverts over the life of the control and clean-up project.

Exposure to 250 millisieverts of radiation is equivalent to more than 400 chest-ch Xrays. That is below the level for acute radiation sickness. Experts are divided about the long term health effect but agree higher levels of exposure correspond to higher risk of cancer. Reuters

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French official resigns amid sex harassment suits

PARIS—A junior government minister on Sunday resigned after two women filed sexual harassment suits against him last week, becoming the first close political casualty here of the fallout from the arrest of the French economist Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

Frédéric Mitterrand, France's culture minister, said he had presented his resignation to the prime minister on Sunday.

The two women, ages 34 and 36, have accused Tron, 53, of repeated sexual assaults from 2007 to 2010 when they worked for him at City Hall in Draveil, near Paris, where he is mayor. The plaintiffs' lawsuit does not preclude criminal charges.

Strauss-Kahn was arrested May 14 and resigned as managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

Tron's lawyer said that numerous episodes began in her messages in Tron, but they say that he went much further. Tron has acknowledged touching the women's feet but only in the context of reflexology as alternative massage practice.

If the women's complaints are confirmed, Tron could face charges of sexual assault or rape, and not only ordered for sentencing, but also prosecutor has said.

In a letter of resignation to Sarkozy Tron wrote that he would resign out of a sense of "duty" and he denounced a "press campaign" against him.

"I'm sad, however unjust it might have been, but sullied me life as a citizen, a municipal official or parliamentarian, I would never have accepted the high ministerial duties that you assigned me entrusted to me," he said in the letter, published on the website of the weekly news magazine Express.

Denouncing the "vindictive interpretation" against him, he said that one of the plaintiffs had been dismissed from her position at City Hall after embezzling money and that the other woman had left her post "owing to an unexplained behavior." The women have denied acting in bad revenge. Reuters, Bob Tyrer, News Service

TRON

E. coli linked to vegetables in Germany

BERLIN—Nearly 10 people dead of infection and 400 cases reported, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said Sunday that a bacterial outbreak in northern Germany was one of the largest of its kind ever recorded worldwide.

The infection, from a strain of Escherichia coli, can lead to kidney failure and death and is difficult to treat with antibiotics, according to the Robert Koch Institute, which in Germany's disease control authority.

Fifteen other cases have been identified in Britain, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden. The patients are Germans or had visited northern Germany. Agriculture minister Ilse the European Union are scheduled to discuss the issue on Monday when they meet in Debrecen, Hungary.

Food safety officials in Austria and the Czech Republic said Sunday that small numbers of vegetables that had come from Germany were being pulled off the shelves there. The Associated Press reported. The Czechs said cucumbers from a wholesaler named shipment had also gone to Hungary and Luxembourg.

The infection came from eating some tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce that were bought in northern Germany. AFP/AP

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At IMF, strict ethics code doesn't apply to top officials

At the International Monetary Fund, there is one set of ethics guidelines for the rank-and-file staff and another for the 24-nine executive directors who oversee the powerful organization.

Over the past four years, the fund has tightened up internal systems for catching ethical misconduct among its 2,400 staff members, establishing a telephone hotline for complaints like harassment, publishing details of complaints in an annual report and empowering an ethics adviser to pursue allegations, which last year led to at least one dismissal.

But the fund's board members remain largely above those rules. The ethics adviser, for example, is not able to investigate any of them.

The board is responsible for policing its own directors as well as the managing director it has a five-person ethics committee, whose work is confidential, but the only way the board can discipline its members is to write a warning letter to them or to their home countries, or the group of countries that appointed them.

"There are a lot of controls in place when it comes to the staff, but not for the leadership," said Kathryn Campbell, a compliance and ethics expert at Global Compliance.

The IMF's ethics policy has **come under intense scrutiny** in recent weeks since the arrest of its managing director, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, on charges of sexually assaulting a hotel housekeeper in New York. Strauss-Kahn, who denies the charges, has resigned his position at the fund.

In 2006, Campbell carried out a study of the IMF's ethics policies for the fund's bulletin, Just Information Office. It found that the board lacked substantive procedures for dealing with its own members or the managing director for ethical lapses. The report criticized the board's code of conduct as vague, saying that it "reads, for the most part, as a set of recommendations, rather than a code that the board lacked effective enforcement procedures.

In contrast, it praised the staff code of conduct as detailed and offering "a plethora of policies and procedures."

Until several years ago, the managing director's position was ambiguous in terms of ethics policy. The person holding that post is both chairman of the executive board and also head of the staff, and it was not clear which code of conduct applied, according to Campbell.

But when Strauss-Kahn was selected for the top spot in November 2007, the staff code of conduct was written into his contract, she said, although ultimately he remains answerable only to the board.

Strauss-Kahn, 62, not long after his new job, the IMF was compelled to investigate him for having an affair with a staff subordinate. In that case, the fund hired an outside law firm to handle the inquiry because the ethics officer was not authorized to investigate at that high level. Although Strauss-Kahn was found not to have abused his position, he was publicly reprimanded by the board for showing poor judgment, and he apologized.

In January 2009, the executive board formally adopted procedures for ethics investigations. They would be conducted by an outside examiner who reported to the ethics committee.

Since then, the law firm Morgan, Lewis & Bockius has been brought in to investigate several other matters, according to a person familiar with the situation who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly. None of the matters concerned Strauss-Kahn, this person said, and the cases were not related to allegations of sexual misconduct or affairs.

As an international organization, the IMF's legal status is complicated. Though it is based in Washington, not all the laws of the U.S. apply to it. Unlike the staff, the directors are appointed by their home governments rather than the fund and do not have been an exclusive duty of loyalty to the IMF. *New York Times News Service*

Suicide bomber attacks Italian base in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan—A suicide bomber blew up an explosives-packed car on Monday at the gates of a civilian military base in Herat, officials said, while a second explosion ripped through a busy downtown intersection in the normally secure city, which is preparing to be handed over to Afghan control in July.

The attacks killed at least four people, Italy's defense ministry said in Rome and.

Herat, western Afghanistan's largest city, is one of seven areas scheduled to be handed over to Afghan control in July as the first step toward transitioning nationwide security responsibility to Afghan forces by 2014. Attacks are rare inside the city, though there are a number of volatile districts on its outskirts.

The two blasts in Herat city killed a policeman and three civilians, said Sami Ahmadi, a spokesman for the regional police commander. He said more than 20 people were wounded.

Gunfire followed the attack at the Italian base, but Ahmadi said it was from guards shooting out from the compound. Officials had earlier reported a gunbattle between militants and Italian soldiers. The area was calm by midday.

The second explosion was at an intersection about three kilometers from the base that is packed with businesses and traffic. Ahmadi said most of the casualties were from the second blast but did not provide more details. *AP*

Obama officials cracking down on illegal immigrants' employers

STRAUSS-KHAN

TUCSON, Arizona—Obama administration officials are sharpening their crackdown on the hiring of illegal immigrants by forming increasingly tough criminal charges on employers while moving away from criminal arrests of the workers themselves.

After months of criticism from Republicans who said President Barack Obama was relaxing immigration enforcement in workplaces, the scope of the administration's crackdown has become clear as long-running investigations of employers have culminated in indictments, convictions, exponentially increased fines and jail sentences. While countering fewer illegal immigrants than in the past, immigration authorities have greatly expanded the number of businesses being scrutiny and the cases where employers face severe sanctions.

In a break with Bush-era policies, the number of criminal cases against unauthorized immigrants' workers has dropped sharply over the last two years.

Among the employers who have felt the impact of the administration's tactics are two owners of Mexican restaurants in the Chevy Mesquite Broiler chain, which are popular for their fast-food. Mesquite Broiler owned and then bought multi-Tacos. On April 28, immigration agents descended on 14 Chevy's restaurants in coordinated raids in Arizona and California, detaining kitchen workers and carrying away boxes of payroll books and other evidence.

But at the arraignment days later in federal court here, no one from Mesquite Broiler was in the judge. The only criminal defendants were the owners, Mark Feenstra and his son Christopher, and an accountant who worked with them, Diana Ingrid Davidson. If the Feenstras are convicted on all charges against them of tax fraud and harboring illegal workers, they each could face more than 80 years in jail.

Of 42 illegal immigrants caught in the Chevy's sweep, only one was charged with a crime, and it was not related to the raid. Thirteen workers were processed for immigration removal—which are civil offenses—and detained or deported. The others remained in the country as witnesses or to seek legal status through the immigration system.

Under President George W. Bush, immigration agents frequently confronted high-profile factory raids, leading away scores of unauthorized workers in handcuffs and in leg irons. But the abstinent fraud or identity theft before being deported. After a raid in Postville, Iowa, in 2008, nearly 300 damaged workers were indictment.

The Chevy's prosecution was **conducted** with the application by state and county authorities of a law that Arizona adopted in 2007 to punish employers who hire illegal immigrants; the measure was upheld by the Supreme Court on Thursday. Despite the political furor over the law, only a handful of cases have been brought against employers under its terms, which provide mainly for civil penalties. But state authorities have continued to bring criminal cases against illegal immigrant workers, leading to their deportations.

The Obama administration's record on workplace enforcement has been fiercely criticized in Washington since Obama announced that he would try, against steep odds, to pass an immigration overhaul. This year Administration officials say that their audits and investigations of employers have laid the groundwork for a system that would dismantle companies from hiring illegal immigrants. *New York Times News Service*

Palin enters Washington on back of a Harley

SARAH PALIN, former governor of Alaska, takes part in the Rolling Thunder motorcycle ride in former GI veterans, in Washington on May 29. AFP/JIM WATSON

WASHINGTON—For sheer mastery of celebrity theater, Sarah Palin cannot be beat.

Palin, the former governor of Alaska, let the anticipation build for hours on Sunday at the Pentagon's North Parking Lot, where thousands of bikers (and their mouthing Harleys) had gathered for the annual Rolling Thunder rally ahead of Memorial Day.

And then, suddenly, there she was: Palin, with her husband, Todd, and the rest of the family. Wearing matching black Hardley Davidson helmets, they rode motorcycles around the front of the proceedings through a crush of cameramen, photographers, reporters and leather-clad bikers, all jostling for just a peek at the woman who might be president.

A traditional political appearance, it was not. She did not make any public remarks or shake hands with dignitaries. There was no news release accompanying her visit. And after the short ride to the National Mall —she rode on the back of a volunteer's bike —she sped off in a black sport utility vehicle, a private airplane to parts unknown and her motorcycle, soon to be reported covering her.

Palin's visit here—a comet her will repeat Omni One Nation bus tour along the East Coast—provided no clarity about whether she will run for the Republican presidential nomination she says that is all reminders. Her idea that if she does, her campaign will not be conducted in the usual way.

Indeed, the appearance offered a study in sentences between Palin and her would-be Republican rivals, who, in the stubbed Donough Washington chat in black leather and the fringe that candidates for president usually do.

Tim Pawlenty, former governor of Minnesota, appeared on the ABC program "This Week," dressed for the part: navy suit, pressed white shirt, light blue tie. He said the usual things about policies and positions, praising the House Republican budget and insisting that the nation does its debt problem head on.

"I don't think we should raise the debt ceiling," Pawlenty told the program's host, Christiane Amanpour. "And if the Congress moves in that direction," he said, "they [are to get something really good for it. It better be permanent, and it better be structural, like a balanced budget amendment and like permanent caps and limits on spending that are genuine."

Jon M. Huntsman Jr., former governor of Utah who is also considering a jump into the presidential race, recently took a textbook swing through New Hampshire, stopping at the gun shops that politicians like to visit. Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts, went to Iowa last week for a speech, and he promises to announce his candidacy formally in New Hampshire on Thursday.

And then there is Palin.

The candidate-in-waiting announced with fanfare on the website of her political action committee last week remains elusive to most. Her aides refused to say where she was going or when, pointing reporters and others to her website, which, as of late Sunday, gave no details about the tour.

Palin's last brief appearance on the site is filled only with gauzy imagery about the "patriotic area" she will visit in the days ahead. *New York Times News Service*

Sudan threatens to invade 2 more regions

JUBA, Sudan—The northern Sudanese army is threatening to seize two more areas along the contentious north-south border, ridding war just weeks before southern Sudan is due to split off as a new country. Workers and local Antonov officials on Sunday said.

The northern government has already taken militarily brokered agreements with the south, sending its army swarming into the contested border region of Abyei a week ago. Now, its threats in the south at a peace process, declaring that the disputed areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile are a long conflict that has cost millions of lives, that several closer to realization after a pipeline and associated water for independence by southerners just this January.

According to a letter from the Sudanese military's high command, the northern army, in the next few days, plans to take over Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, have deployed areas with a long history of conflict that are still heavily armed.

Analysts, local leaders and Western diplomats fear that if the northern army goes through with it, pushing out or forcibly disarming the thousands of fighters allied to the south in these two areas, a conflict could erupt and set off a much bigger clash between the northern and southern armies.

Malik Agar, Blue Nile's governor, on Sunday night said that northern forces had recently moved "dangerously close" to the limits of southern-allied fighters and that he did not think the southern-allied forces would surrender.

"It's like putting a cat in a corner," Agar said. "They will fight."

Sudan's border area is a thinly populated mosaic of ethnic groups and political loyalties. It is also home to the bulk of Sudan's crude oil and some of the most fertile land in the country, making the question of how exactly to draw a line across Sudan one of the most explosive issues the nation confronts as it prepares to split in two.

Under peace agreements signed several years ago, joint forces were supposed to patrol some of those disputed areas. The two sides had agreed that Abyei would hold a referendum to decide if it were to join the north or south, a compromise that was essentially blasted on Saturday when thousands of northern-allied soldiers and tanks marched into Abyei. *New York Times News Service*

Afghan bank commission absolves President Karzai's brother

KABUL, Afghanistan—A commission appointed by President Hamid Karzai to conduct investigations for the massive fraud at Kabul Bank issued its report Sunday, absolving the president's brother of any blame.

Mahmoud Karzai was among the bank's politically connected shareholders who received loans that took out a total of $825 million in loans, often with no collateral or even documentation, the commission's chairman, Azizullah Ludin, announced at a news conference here. Only $347 million of that amount is now in default, he said.

At the same time, the report suggested that loans to politically connected figures were even more widespread than previously known. Ludin said that 207 borrowers took out undocumented loans, including many members of Parliament and government ministers.

Ludin used the phrase "loss or loot" in citing cabinet members had received dubious loans. He did not identify them, but he did name Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, the military chief of staff and a leading Northern Alliance member, as taking out about $100,000 in unsecured loans.

He said the president's brother, Mahmoud Karzai, had paid off his loans, terms welcomed by Hamid Karzai although the case remained mainly Abdul Qadir Fitrat, a central bank governor, recently told Parliament that Karzai still owed the bank $22 million, which Karzai denied.

Officials say the heads of the Central Bank and the presidential commission underpinned the report, which tried to shift the blame for the fiasco to the Central Bank, as well as to numerous institutions paid for by US aid programs, for what often amounted to looting of the bank's deposits.

Ludin was particularly critical of Fitrat, the Central Bank governor.

"It's very easy to be national hero in Afghanistan," Ludin said on Sunday, clearly referring to Fitrat. "Some officials of the Central Bank are involved in the crime, and those who were guilty in this case are now in charge of the affairs in Kabul Bank."

After news of the scandal threatened to destroy the bank, Afghanistan's largest, shareholders pumped in $300 million to stave off collapse, and drive away foreign aid, threatening the country's banking system. Karzai vowed last year that the government would stand by the bank and prevent it from failing.

Last month, the government announced its plan to overhaul the bank, splitting it in two. One entity would take over the bank's branches, deposits and good loans, and the other would be a receivership office set up to try to collect on the bad loans.

Ludin did not release the text of the report, which he said was the president's prerogative. He said the president would decide whether any criminal or other action would be taken based on its recommendations.

Fitrat, however, gave liberally from the report, and took care to slander the bank's current politically prominent borrowers. Karzai and Abdul Hasib Fitrat, the brother of the president, first vice president. Officials had previously said that Fahim's loans totaled as much as $100 million, but Ludin said that his commission had been assured by him that he had agreed to pledge enough property to cover his obligations. *New York Times News Service*

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Benigno Reyes
Maria Cristina Belen Reyes
King Marlo Gubangan
Marjorie Ogondo
Hayden Tullie
Michelle Nava
Alex Domingo
Paola Adriatico
Mark Jara
Marlon Cameron Tolentino
Hernina Miranda
Geraldin Cobarding
Lucrimeda G. Dilorio
Adeline Ivanne
Henry D. Gildino Jr.
Ma. Jennifer S. Bordante
Marlyn Dagure
Raquel Alejo
Addie Rita
Francis Ruth Saludes
Luis Briones
Benia Ganning
Jefferson Constantino
Arjeen Villavicencio

₱10,000 winners, May 24

Edwin Campo
Mark Anthony Fernando
Rosalina R. Paz
Amelia L. Evangelista
Nilda T. Rivera
Romeo Ramoso
Vinh Anne Estonnal
Andrea Debra Reyes
Randall Reyes
Myrna B. Tuanda
Darlene Joy S. Antonio
Bernie Ganning
Hayden Tullie
King Marlo Gubangan
Maria Cristina Belen Reyes
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Yadao Vil Dasmarie Dimpan
Aspirado Cobarding
Cornelio Magpale
Fidel Ines
Michael John De Vera
Hernina Miranda
Geraldin Cobarding
Michelle Gollaso
Anna B. Daley
Dorothy Joy Alcorez
Benia Dagal
Arjeen Cadano
Rachel Sumaoli
Elaine Bercasio
Michelle Joy P. Peralta
Marilou Alegre
Melvy Punzalan
Mark Vincent Supnet

₱10,000 winners, May 25

Annie Alibi
Jaime Javier
Jennifer De Guzman
Annabelle Dela
Richard Gonzales
Amalyn Angel
Madelyn Espino
Jennifer Rodriguez
Merlie Labrillo
Agnes Fajardo
Cynthia Campos
Merlene Miranda
Elbert Nolasco
Hazbarte Pallasigue
Florido G. Pontes
Maria Cristina Belen Reyes
Ma. Shennaine Ann Cabilez
Anna F. De Guzman
Lucia Mendoza
Raul Jeremias Tan
Katherine Julia Duran
Leah Sobalento
Antonio Alva Romano
Julieto Campo
Mariel Murillo
Michelle Gollaso
Epifanio O. Perolino Jr.
Tiamzo Glen
Teresita O. Yong
Vendel N. Abrolo
Mary Grace Bautista
Jessa M. Aden
Lovelin N. Dimaano
Rhea Capadosi
Ruben C. Pereno

₱10,000 winners, May 26

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Robert C. Tungol
Evelyn S. Magnaye
Tarsilio V. Javar
Yanni Rhea G Clemente
Benny Diaong
Glenalyn Tuala
Diana B. Dulomal
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Simeon Aguirrez
Marco Nicolo P. Bravo
Marilou Alegre
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Dina Gloria
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Raymond Remolacio
Veronica M. Resendiz
Christine Joyce Tugot
Lucky Grace Ayam
Ma Maria Dacling
Angelo Hadlen
Jacqueline Ishigaoka
Marivic N. L. B. Bacsal

₱10,000 winners, May 27

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Clinton G. Padilla
Hannah P. De Guzman
Ronnie Lacsamana
Kevin Pereno
Katryn C. Pereno
Vida Grace A Hermida
Ma. Herdley T. Enriquez
Nilden Sumawang
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Editor Lorente B. Garcia

The WORLD

Yemen forces kill 20 protesters as they disperse sit-in demo

SANAA— Forces loyal to the embattled Yemeni leader killed 20 protesters as they dispersed a sit-in in Taez, an organizer said on Monday, as suspected al-Qaida gunmen killed four soldiers in the south.

Security service agents backed by army and Republican Guard troops stormed the protest against President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Freedom Square in the envoy of Yemen's second largest city during the night, shooting as the demonstrators and setting fire to their tents, protesters said.

"At least 20 protesters have been killed," one of the protest organizers said.

Troops backed by tanks stormed a field hospital and detained 37 of the wounded receiving treatment there, among hundreds of people rounded up as security forces pursued the protesters, nearby witnesses, medics and organizers said.

"This was a massacre. The situation is miserable. They have dragged the wounded off to downtown centers from the streets," activist Bushra al-Maqtari told AFP.

Protesters said that the square had been entirely cleared, while security forces rearrested a nearby hotel and arrested several journalists.

The Common Forum opposition coalition condemned the "crimes against humanity" committed by Saleh's "terrorizing militias and security and army forces and armed militias." It warned the veteran president he would be "held personally responsible for his most brutal crimes against the people." "These crimes do not go forgotten with time. They are being monitored and documented, and those who have committed them, and who provided arms and money will not escape justice." The four-month-old sit-in in Taez was the longest running protest against Saleh's rule.

The clashes erupted on Sunday evening outside a nearby police station as some 3,000 people gathered to demand the release of a detained protester.

Police fired warning shots that fired into the crowd when the demonstrators refused to leave, a local committee of the "Youth of the Revolution" group said.

On March 18, 52 people died when security forces opened up to break up a similar protest against Saleh's rule in University Square in the capital Sanaa. The president declared a state of emergency after the bloodshed.

More than 300 demonstrators have been killed since the protests first erupted in Yemen. Scores more people have died in armed clashes between loyalist troops and dissident tribesmen.

In the south, suspected al-Qaida gunmen ambushed a military convoy and killed four in Zinjibar days after the night, killing four soldiers, a security official said on Monday, at least seven soldiers were wounded, a medic said.

A security official said on Sunday that suspected al-Qaeda gunmen had taken control of most of the

ARMED Bedouin supporters of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh gather in Sanaa, Yemen on May 10. AFP

town of Jaar, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan province, in Gov. Jaar on Sunday, the ruling party said. Fighting in which 21 people were killed.

Obaidullah army commanders announced faith of surrendering the province to "terrorists." The Common Forum charged that he had "delivered Zinjibar to groups that he has formed and armed, to continue to strike the species of al-Qaida to heighten regional and international parties." The opposition grouping signed up to a deal brokered by impoverished Yemen's wealthy Gulf neighbors under which Saleh, in power since 1978, would hand power to the vice president within 30 days in return for a measure of immunity from prosecution.

The president initially agreed to the plan but then repeatedly set new conditions for signing it, prompting the six nations Gulf Cooperation Council to suspend consultations of them.

AFP

May 07, 2011

Gaceled romps to inaugural PFF Suzuki U23 title

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Editor Raul O. Pascual • Assistant Editor Curtis S. Mariano

BUSINESS

EPSON

GDP growth slows down in Q1

Full-year outlook appears bleak, economists say

By Ron T. Dizikunden

THE RATE of rise of the country's economy in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) slowed down considerably to 4.9 percent in the first quarter, from the 8.4 percent seen in the same period in 2010, due to lower government spending and a volatile global economy.

In its report, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) also said that GDP growth in the first quarter was slower compared with the 6.1 percent the seen in the fourth quarter of 2010.

"Understanding by the government and the slowdown in global trade contributed this country to a lower growth than the same 2010 based GDP of 4.9 percent in the first quarter, from the fourth quarter of 2010," NSCB Director Romulo L. Virola said during a briefing.

Rounds was referring to the worse government decision to change the benchmark rank related to base related results from 1985 prices to 2000.

Also, the NSCB head cited the dip in the rate the economy recorded from last year's election-related spending.

The challenge in the coming quarter is how to maintain the rounded growth seen in the first three months of 2011, Virola said.

For according to Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Pedrosa Jr. the lower rate of GDP growth in early 2011 is "well within expectations."

Economists interviewed by the Inquirer said they were not surprised by the official figures.

Most economists' first quarter projections however averaged at about 5 percent.

Benjamin Diokno, former budget secretary and an economics professor at the University of the Philippines, said the slowdown was expected, and indicated that the full-year outlook "is not rosy."

For governmental's full year target growth of 7 to 8 percent now appears to be unachievable," he said in an e-mail.

Diokno also noted that the 2011 GDP growth would be lower because of "base effect"—something that would necessarily occur after an economic experienced rapid expansion the previous year.

"That was what happened in 2010, which saw massive election spending and abnormally strong public sector consumption and investment growth," he said.

Still, the government is hoping to hit its 8 percent target, and will look at "macroeconomic spending" for the rest of the year, Pedrosa said.

The NSCB said the modest GDP rate was due to the sustained growth of some, alternating, supported by "other services," real estate and business activities, as well as the recovery of agriculture from what quarter slumped in 2010.

On the demand side, the NSCB said, growth came mainly from increased investments in fixed capital formation, pu-

(CONTINUED ON B2)

HIGH-RISE construction workers in Pasay City stand precariously on metal beams as they go about their task. The strong performance of the construction and manufacturing sectors had helped offset the contraction seen in all other sectors. AP FILE PHOTO

No reason to be upset by GDP, say experts

By Doris C. Dumlao, Christian O. Avendaño and Raissa M. Dominguez

THE SLOWER growth of the country's economy should not alarm investors as the Philippines just happens to be returning to its normal growth pattern after an extraordinary 2010, according to an economist at Hong Kong-based HSBC.

HSBC economist Herman Chan, in a commentary released shortly after the government announced the country's first quarter growth figure, also said that with private consumption remaining buoyant, inflation would not likely end anytime soon.

According to the economist, solid household demand suggested that underlying inflationary pressures were unlikely to recede anytime soon.

"With inflation elevated in the upper half of the central bank's target band and is set to breach the upper bound within the next two months, the [Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas] will maintain its hawkish stance," the said.

She projected the BSP would remain on interest rate increases and end the year with the overnight borrowing rate at 5 percent.

The 4.9 percent gross domestic product growth posted in the first quarter fell short of the median's expectations and at least 7.3 percent.

Still, it was above HSBC's forecast of 4.8 percent for the period.

SEE CHART ON B2

BTr raises ₱1.06B from sale of benchmark 91-day T-bills

By Raissa M. Dominguez

THE UP the 91-day Treasury bill rose to an average of 2.204 percent as investors continued to show preference for short-term papers with higher returns.

The resulting average is 37.5 basis points higher than the 1.805 percent set in the auction held two weeks ago.

However, yesterday's average was 3.3 basis points lower than the bid bid in the secondary market, which averaged at 2.239 percent.

The Bureau of the Treasury awarded only P1.06 billion in benchmark bills, falling short of the P3.5 billion it offered.

Also, interest rates on the 182-day T-bill rose by 140 d basis points to an average of 2.444 percent, while all tenders for the 364-day T-bill were rejected.

The average for the 182-day bill was 13.8 basis points lower than the prevailing best bids at the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp., which stood at 2.579 percent.

Even then, the BTr extended only P908 million in the month bills—far short of the P5.8 billion it offered.

National Treasurer Roberto S. Tan said the government was ready to accommodate more bids for the 182-day bill and even some for the 364-day bill. "but bids were quite reluctant."

"We thought that the bids for the 364-day bill were quite overvalue in terms of yield being asked," Tan said.

If the government had fully awarded its P4 billion offer on the yearlong bill, the average would have reached 2.505 percent, or 134.4 basis points higher than the previous 2.102 percent.

"Even if we tried to accept bids for the 364-day bill based on prevailing rates in the secondary market, the volume is too insignificant—just about P908 million," Tan said.

The government raised a total of P1.36 billion, 64 less than the planned P4 billion.

Investors tendered a total of P12.139 billion.

PDIC begins to settle claims of Banco Filipino's big clients

By Michelle V. Ramos

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT Insurance Corp. (PDIC) will begin settling deposit insurance claims of clients in big chunks of recently closed Banco Filipino Savings & Mortgage Bank starting June 15.

In a statement, PDIC expects to completely settle all claims in about two months, from June 15 to August 15, one month ahead of the original schedule.

"Depositors should proceed to the branches or designated CBO claims settlement operations sites on their appointment dates based on the priority or reference numbers given to the depositors during the claims receiving operations held earlier," PDIC Officer in Charge and Executive Vice President Imelda Singson said in a statement.

Also, PDIC has already begun paying deposit insurance claims of small depositors. It said some 75,000 depositors with accounts of P5,000 or less had already been paid. Total payment speeded to P96.2 million.

Meanwhile, payment of depositors with accounts of more than P5,000 to P10,000 began last week.

According to data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Banco Filipino has 277,032 depositors with total deposits of P3.9 billion.

PDIC said it had sufficient funds to cover the deposit insurance claims of Banco Filipino's clients.

Under the PDIC charter, deposits worth P500,000 or less are covered by insurance.

Amount in excess of P500,000 may or may not be paid depending on proceeds following the liquidation of a closed bank's assets.

Once a bank is placed under receivership, depositors will be incapable of being refunded. PDIC will sell its assets, the proceeds of which will be distributed among creditors and other entities that have claims against

(CONTINUED ON B2)

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

May 30, 2011

43.315

STOCK MARKET

May 30, 2011

20.73

(Detailed market report on Page B2)

Share prices close up

STOCKS OPENED the week on an upbeat mood, supported by buying of selected blue chips.

The index-driven Philippine Stock Exchange index yesterday added 29.73 points or 0.466 percent to finish at 6,280.24, rising for the third straight session.

Trading for the day was mixed. The industrial financial sector's upper boundary finished positive for most, while the mining firms...

(CONTINUED ON B2)

Power Situation Outlook

for Tuesday, 31 May 2011

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,810	1,746	1,229
System Peak (MW)	7,146	1,206	1,164
Power Reserve (MW)	1,664	540	65

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MJC earmarking ₱15B for property development

3 leisure-oriented ventures

By Doris C. Dumlao

MANILA JOCKEY Club is investing about ₱15 billion in three leisure-oriented township projects in Manila, Cavite and Bulacan over the next 10 years.

Although the move will change the company's business mix in favor of property development, horse racing and gaming are seen to remain a substantial component of MJC's business, given an upcoming partnership with GMA New Media to develop Internet and SMS-based betting on horse racing, company executive vice president Alfonso Reyno II said in a hearing.

GMA New Media is a unit of listed broadcasting giant GMA Network Inc.

MJC's Internet and text-based betting platform, which could be expanded to cover other sports events, could help improve public interest in horse racing.

"The potential is limitless," Reyno said after the listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange of new shares sold by MJC through a stock rights offering. The venture with GMA will be the platform to expand the geographic reach of MJC's gaming operations, he said.

The ₱15-billion investment has been earmarked for three township projects: The 77-hectare gaming and leisure hub in Carmona, Cavite, which is touted as the first "casino" township with casinos in the region; the 16-ha. San Lazaro Tourism and Business park in Sta. Cruz, Manila, where a new hotel-casino facility will rise; and a 204-ha. resort and leisure estate project in Montalban, Rizal province, which will include a watersport village.

Reyno said the company was still studying options for funding these projects, which would likely be a combination of debt and equity.

MJC, whose business mix is currently split evenly between horse racing/gaming and property development, has so far invested ₱2 billion in putting up all-weather racetracks, a stadium-type grandstand and a 9-story Turf Club and a casino-cum-hotel in Carmona, Cavite property.

The racing facility called San Lazaro Leisure and Business Park, operates every other week, alternating with the operations of Philippine Racing Club Inc.

Another ₱5 billion to ₱10 billion will be invested within the next 10 years in putting up other facilities, including a 200-room resort hotel and spa and a sports club with tennis courts, bridle trails, wonder mound area, driving range, swimming pool and baseball diamond field. There will also be a few choice residential condominiums with a view of the racetrack overlooking the upscale market, Reyno said.

The residential component of the township projects has started with the 10-hectare residential subdivision Canyon Ranch development in partnership with Century Properties. All 792 houses in the project had been completed and sold.

The Manila township venture consists of the following projects which are undertaken with the Ayala and SM groups:

- Avida Towers San Lazaro, with five condominium towers with 1,954 residential units;
- Commercial facilities and a fully equipped first-class gated subdivision development with 200 high-end townhouses occupying 4.2 hectares;
- Celadon Park, with four high-end condominium towers with 1,080 residential units; and
- Arton One, with 11-story business process outsourcing building with retail outlets on the ground floor, with majority of the floors currently leased by leading BPO firm Convergys.

EastWest profit hits ₱443M

EASTWEST BANK posted P443 million in first-quarter profit, down by 6.8 percent from a year ago due to a decline in trading gains.

This translated to a return on equity of 18.43 percent for the first three months, one of the highest in the industry, as the bank expanded its recurring income base as a much faster pace relative to its operating expenses, EastWest said in a statement.

Net interest income rose by 9.2 percent to P1.09 billion from year-ago level as the bank continued to increase its lending businesses while managing its cost of funds.

It expanded its client book by 26.9 percent year-on-year to 198,549 billion, evenly split between consumer and corporate loans.

Consumer lending climbed by 18.1 percent due to significant expansion in the bank's auto-loan and credit card operations while corporate loans expanded by 34.8 percent from a year ago.

Trading gains nosedived by 70.6 percent year-on-year to P78 million. Excluding trading gains, however, non-interest income increased by 7.0 percent to P409 million from a year ago.

Net revenues for the quarter stood at P1.38 billion, down by 2.9 percent from a year ago, despite lower trading gains. Total operating expenses included a 6.2 percent rise in the bank's provisioning for loan losses.

Trading gains nosedived by 70.6 percent year-on-year to P78 million. Excluding trading gains, however, non-interest income increased by 7.0 percent to P409 million from a year ago.

Net revenues for the quarter stood at P1.38 billion, down by 2.9 percent from a year ago, despite lower trading gains. Total operating expenses included a 6.2 percent rise in the bank's provisioning for loan losses.

Total resources went up by 3.3 percent to P75.61 billion by the end of first quarter. This expansion in assets was supported by a 5.4-percent rise in deposits to P67.3 billion from a year ago, largely fueled by the growth in low-cost funds.

On asset quality, EastWest reported a nonperforming loan ratio for the period of 3.7% percent. The bank said this would be significantly reduced as the bank would write off more stained loans. If the bank were to exclude the NPLs that were 100 percent provided for, the ratio will be reduced to just 1.6 percent. — Doris C. Dumlao

Sifting through the index

MARKET RIDER

Deni Sotaverna

THE MARKET last week ended higher after a two-day rally on Thursday and Friday, but this was not enough to turn around the market's overall trend that continued to mirror sideways as losses on a weekly basis.

As it looks now, the almost 200-point net advance of the market in April had driven up stock prices at some overbought levels investors said that, since we have signaled the month of May to profit-taking.

This certainly makes sense when we look a week further back at the charts: The market made a morning advance of about 281.44 points week-on-week between the close of trading on March 25 and April 1.

In particular, the benchmark or Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) closed at 3,848.30 on March 25. For the week ending April 1, the PSEi closed at 4,129.74. This adds up to a modest climb of 281.44 points in one week.

Stopping back

Stopping further back at the start of the year, stock prices were obviously still as a result of the failure of the market in December to maintain a momentum.

The absence of more positive news that followed, particularly about the state of the global economy as made more worrisome by the seemingly-faltering strides of the US economy to recover, drove the market to plunge to early January.

The fall only stopped before the close of February when the market hit a trading session's low of 3,795.38 on Feb. 23.

The recovery was not that easy as it proved to be more of a struggle. It did not gain momentum, not until the week of March 14 to 18 when the market gained footing as facilitated by the advance of money that entered the market in conjunction with the listing of the shares of the recently-held public offering of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) and on more foreign investors' buying dictated for the week.

What followed next was an almost steep market run-up that propelled the benchmark index to reach the high of 4,346.30, or 508.52 points from the low of 3,795.38, on April 28.

Bottom line spin

With the indexes reflecting the market's direction, it would obviously appear that the market should continue to move sideways to lower in the near term.

The benchmark index suffered a loss of about 180.44 points in the first week of May. This was followed by a rebound of 73.64 points the following week, which proved to be just a modest relief. This was because the market continued to slide on the third week to a net loss equivalent to 6.95 points, followed by another net loss of 10.48 points by the end of the fourth week.

But since the month of May will have only until next Friday, this week, which also falls as the first week of June, the market has two more days where to discount breaking news over the weekend that point to better than expected results taken for the Q1 world economies — news, market watchers say, that could help lift the trading growth. Will fervor trading resumed positively just like that last week.

Correlating the pattern of the benchmark index with other simple trend indicators such as the moving averages — a larger number of advancing stocks is considered a sign to confirm a broad market uptrend.

Then, seen along with the stock plays that are happening and expected to happen in the far-to-close to 4 steeper market fundamentals, the market should be having the bottom soon. This may serve as the turning point for the market to resume its primary upward direction that can be gathered from its 608.52 points movement between 4th, 21 and April 28 and the two-year bull trend from the beginning of 2009 to end of 2010.

Seasonally, too, June and July are positive months. Stock declines become less than advances, paving the way for the market to gather more momentum and get ready to change direction.

Spice your day with laughter

While wasting fun is the spice of life, it's rare to come jokes. As is said, "If you can't make a person laugh, you still hurt." My good friend who teaches in that girls' college in Quezon City has sent some samples.

Let me start with my second pick. It's about a husband and wife arguing about their relationship. Their exchange went this way: "Mine: Maglilwalk na tayo (Let us separate). Wife: Sige, maglilwalk na tayo. (Okay, let's separate). Mine: Mine ang lahay (I'll take the house). Wife: Akin ang barn (I'll take the house). Mine: Akin ang kotse (I'll take the car). Wife: Hoooy nung kuma yung driver, nanagal na sa akin yun (Don't take the driver, he's been mine for a long time). Mine: Magkaka-mantayan lang, akin siya! (Over my dead body, mine yan!)

If that did not even get a little grin from you, here's my best pick: It's about a parsimonious woman, Mrs. Tuano. When her husband died, she inquired with the newspaper about the cost of an obituary. The clerk asked her, "Ilan salitas ang gusto ninyo sa obituary?" (How many words do you want in the obituary?)

After thinking for a while, Mrs. Tuano came up with this cut. It read: "Tuano dead. Dyanu for sale."

Have a great day!

(You may reach the Market Rider at market.rider@inquirer.com.ph or directly at www.dsotaverna.com)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of May 30, 2011

CURRENCIES

As of May 30, 2011

Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	dollar	1.000000	1.000000	43.5495
Japan	yen	0.012043	0.012043	0.5245
European Community	euro	1.441162	1.441162	62.7660
Hong Kong	dollar	0.128611	0.128611	5.6004
United Kingdom	pound	1.623000	1.623000	70.6799
Australia	dollar	1.071000	1.071000	46.6426
Singapore	dollar	0.804000	0.804000	35.0111
Canada	dollar	1.041000	1.041000	45.3400
Switzerland	franc	1.206000	1.206000	52.5327
Malaysia	ringgit	0.340000	0.340000	14.8068
Thailand	baht	0.033000	0.033000	1.4373
Kuwait	dinar	3.600000	3.600000	156.7782
Saudi Arabia	riyal	0.266667	0.266667	11.6132
Bahrain	dinar	2.650000	2.650000	115.4062
United Arab Emirates	dirham	0.272294	0.272294	11.8571
Qatar	riyal	0.274725	0.274725	11.9630
Iran	rial	0.000099	0.000099	0.0043
Brunei	dollar	0.804000	0.804000	35.0111
China	yuan	0.154000	0.154000	6.7066
India	rupee	0.022000	0.022000	0.9581
Indonesia	rupiah	0.000116	0.000116	0.0051
Korea	won	0.000917	0.000917	0.0399
Macau	pataca	0.125000	0.125000	5.4437
Nepal	rupee	0.014286	0.014286	0.6221
New Zealand	dollar	0.757000	0.757000	32.9662
Pakistan	rupee	0.011765	0.011765	0.5124
Saudi Arabia	riyal	0.266667	0.266667	11.6132
Sri Lanka	rupee	0.008772	0.008772	0.3820
Taiwan	dollar	0.034483	0.034483	1.5016
Thailand	baht	0.033000	0.033000	1.4373
Vietnam	dong	0.000048	0.000048	0.0021

Source: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) data. May 30, 2011

Buying rate of selected foreign currencies in terms of the Philippine peso. Cash equivalent refers to the buying rate for foreign currency notes and coins. Dollar equivalent refers to the buying rate for foreign currency deposits. Peso equivalent refers to the buying rate for foreign currency deposits in terms of the Philippine peso.

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Rural banking liberalization sought

Foreign equity seen to help create stronger sector

By Michelle V Rama

THE BSP-led banking sector has reiterated its call for the approval of a proposed measure that will allow its members to take in foreign investments.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) said the Rural Banking Act should be amended in such a way that would allow foreigners to invest in rural banks in the country to form the rural banking sector.

"Foreign equity will help rural banks expand their reach, invest in new technology and improve their lending capacity," BAP spokesperson Teresa Gomez Si said in a statement.

He said that quite a number of foreign entities had expressed interest in investing in Philippine rural banks. However, they were being prevented by the rural banking law, which prohibits foreigners from having equity stakes in rural banks in the country, he said.

Over the past two years, there have been several rural banks that have closed down due to various reasons, including low capitalization and mismanagement.

Gomez said, however, that the majority of the rural banking industry players were healthy and operating profitably.

He said the rural banking sector, in general, was financially sound in its savings capitalization exceeded regulatory requirement.

He said the average capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of the rural banking industry stands at 19 percent, way above the 10 percent requirement of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Gomez said there was still room for further development of the rural banking sector and sweeping equity investments from foreigners would help do so.

In the meantime, he said BAP likewise was supporting the consolidation of the rural banking sector. This, he said, would help create a stronger industry.

There are at present about 640 rural banks in the country.

In the meantime, Gomez said the BAP regularly was reviewing higher capitalization requirements for those wanting to put up new rural banks and on existing operators who want to transfer their head offices to municipalities or cities of higher classification to open a map in the right direction.

Allied extends ₱143-M loan to electric co-op

TUGUEGARAO (MB) Allied Banking Corp. has extended a P143-million loan to Isarog Electric Cooperative Inc. (Isecon) to finance its preliminary electrification facilities in Southern Bukidnon.

In a statement, Allied Bank said the 10-year loan would be used by the cooperative to reduce system loss, increase substation capacity and improve overall service quality, reliability, and efficiency.

"The project is part of the 10-year investment plan of Isecon aimed to address the growing demand for electricity in its 12 franchise areas in Southern Bukidnon," the bank said.

The project also aspired to adopt the Allied Bank card under the bank's fifth payment scheme, which allows the cooperative to settle their electric bills through the bank's 450 automated teller machines network.

Allied Bank is a universal bank that offers a full range of domestic and international banking products and services through its nationwide network of 203 branches, two foreign currency deposit units and four overseas subsidiaries in London, Xiamen and Hong Kong.

The bank is among the 10 largest capital and privately-owned universal banks in the Philippines. *Rowi C. Bordios*

Smart to deploy LTE, HSPA+ in urban areas

Smart to deploy LTE, HSPA+ in urban areas

SMART Communications Inc. said its fourth-generation (4G) network would soon enable its users from the urban canal beaches of Boracay into major urban centers around the country.

According to Rolando G. Peña, head for IT and network systems of Smart, long Term Evolution (LTE) will be made available in Metro Manila soon, with Cebu, Davao and other major Philippine cities and many provinces to follow shortly.

"We are excited to see how people will use Smart in a real world setting," Peña said.

"Deploying the technology in areas where Filipinos live and work is a great way to see just how LTE will affect their lives."

Introduced late summer in Boracay, LTE is the next step in wireless data technology. It is by far, the most advanced means of moving and recording the demands of a connected hungry subscriber base to power by its added on-demand features like Video and Space Collaboration.

"Being able to just call and text no longer cuts it in this new age of mobile telephony," Peña said. "Data access and Internet connectivity have become just as essential and it will continue to be so in the foreseeable future."

With LTE, Smart subscribers will experience blazing fast download speeds of 30-70 megabits per second allowing them to benefit from the ever-dots of the web faster than ever before. Tasks that once required long wait times such as downloading applications, searching, high definition videos or accessing large documents will now take no more than mere seconds with the power of the new network.

The developments however, do not stop there as Smart has already announced it is ready to increase LTE's throughput to up to 150 mbps if the market would demand for it. This, as defined by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), makes Smart's LTE network to go to near 4G enhancement as it exceeds the minimum required speed (100 mbps) for high mobility connections.

As part of its continuing commitment to 4G, Smart is also introducing its evolving network by simultaneously upgrading most base stations with High Speed Packet Access Plus (HSPA+) technology.

"We have been testing HSPA+ technology since 2009 and we feel that it is an important time to expand 3G's capabilities to better complement LTE" Peña said. "We are looking to have HSPA+ connectivity in 50 cities and municipalities around the country by the end of this month."

Although not as advanced as LTE, HSPA+ improves on the existing 3G network by making it capable of download speeds of up to 27.8 mbps.

Together, improvements in the wireless connections, however, are the Fiber Optic Cables that connect base stations to the core network. To date, Smart and parent PLDT boast of a comprehensive loop of more than 42,000 kilometers of fiber optic cabling nationwide.

By the end of the year, the combined network of Smart and PLDT is expected to have an additional 5,000 kilometers of WDM, giving its HSPA+ and LTE services unparalleled redundancy and stability.

MWC's ₱721-M project seen completed in '12

By Rita T Olchondra

MANILA WATER Co. Inc. said its P721.3-million Southeast Transmission Water Mains Project was 70 percent complete and would be finished by August in 2012.

It is estimated, the company said the project would recover 400 million liters per day of clean water to more than 200,000 residents in four cities in Metro Manila and several towns in Rizal.

The Southeast Transmission Mains Project is divided into three budget including the laying of almost 19 kilometers of large diameter steel pipes from the Makiki Treatment Plant in Quezon City which will cross the intersection of Shaw, Ruphidor and traverse the whole stretch of Ensilada avenue up to Gelipas Extension in Cainta, Rizal.

Manila Water partnered with Phillip's Technical Consulting Corp. (PTCC) and the Engineering and Development Corporation of the Philippines (Edcop) for the project.

On March 2, 2009, Manila Water, PTCC and Edcop started preparing the feasibility study, detailed engineering design and the bid documents for the construction of the project that will further improve water services delivery to the municipalities of Cainta, Taytay, Binangonan, Teresa and cities of Tanay, Pasig, Marikina, and Antipolo.

They approved alignment after detailed design will incorporate engineering interventions to address potential ground ruptures or displacement as it will cross the active West Valley Fault for the region from Rufus o Felino Hand to Dalandan River.

Additional features to minimize operational and maintenance concerns included provision for cathodic corrosion protection to adapt to the water logged environment traversed by the proposed transmission mains line.

The project will address the increasing supply requirements for the eastern part of Manila Water's concession that is currently being supplied by the main Phase One, which is already operating to almost twice its capacity to meet the current demand in the expansion areas of Marikina, Pasig, Taguig and parts of Real Province as far as Rodriguez in the north, and Binangonan in the south.

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PDIC begins

From page B1

the bank.

Deposits in excess of P500,000 may be paid if there is still money left after all the bank's liabilities have been settled.

According to the BSP, the total of Peso deposits does not reflect the financial health of the country's banking sector.

It said the case of Banco Filipino was the exception to the rule.

The BSP said the country's banking system remains generally healthy, as proven by good stability, higher than required capitalization and comfortable levels of exposure to loan defaults.

COMBINED EFFORTS to create new markets or to expand their lands of products or services in Asia Pacific is one area where members of the trade facilitation services of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce (CACCI).

This was according to then Executive Secretary V. Valdes, president of CACCI and a vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

Over the last 44 years, Valdes said, CACCI had been creating connection and individuals to help them to start, develop, and sustain business deals in 29 regional economies.

With CACCI regional economies sharing 40 percent of the world's gross domestic products, opportunities are open for large and small and medium enterprises in agriculture, energy, investment, trade promotion, environment, infrastructure, property, banking and finance, labor, information technology and electronics and services.

He said that access to its diverse clients have included departments of Philippine business to accommodate markets under better arrangements, purchase of refined petroleum products, and investments in a local petroleum-related industry.

Proposals under study are for plantation agriculture in Mindanao to supply food to the Middle East and private-public partnerships for infrastructure projects.

Valdes said CACCI influence and clout were due to the membership of 17 chambers of commerce in Australasia, Southeast Asia, North Asia, South Asia and Central Asia.

CACCI is granted consultative status under the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in consultative status.

The PCCI serves as the apex chamber in the country. It receives requests for trade facilitation services of CACCI for key market information, market opportunities or potential business partners and other concerns (distributors, agents, suppliers). CACCI spreads these requests throughout its strong network of chambers-members.

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MUSTARD SEED

Share prices

From page B1

services and mining-oil companies succumbed to profit-taking.

Value turnover was weak at P3.2 billion. There were 66 advancers, against 59 decliners, while 49 stocks were unchanged.

Foreign investors were among those that supported the market's rise. There was a modest P296 million net foreign buying during the day.

DMC, Manila Water, ICTSI, Philex, Ayala Corp., AEA, Banco de Oro, BDO, SM Prime, Megaworld and Metro Pacific Investments, Meralco, Globe and Ayala Land led the market higher.

"Technically, the market leaves investors on the sidelines, waiting for a more convincing signal that consolidation rebound is underway," said market analyst Colbert R. Godoy of Second Capital Equities. *Doris C. Dumales*

GDP growth slows down in Q1

From page B1

modestly despite equipment and household spending.

As a result of the political crisis in the Middle East and North Africa, Net Primary Income (NEI) posted a 6.2% growth, falling down the Gross National Income (GNI) to 3.6 percent from the 13.8 percent representing the previous year.

The strong performance of the manufacturing sector, ably supported by mining, quarrying and construction, negated the contraction of electricity, gas, and water.

The services sector likewise posted a 6.2 percent rise after declining by 0.7 percent in the previous quarter.

With the population projected to reach 98.1 million, per capita GDP grew by 3.9 percent, while per capita GNI grew by 1.7 percent.

Total exports, valued at P758.4 billion, fell behind total imports valued at P975.1 billion in export years, resulting in a trade deficit of P197.7 billion.

The current trade deficit stood at 4.6 percent of GDP from last year's 2.3 percent.

No cause to be upset by Q1 GDP

From page B1

PHSC is expecting further moderation in growth this second quarter, noting that household consumption would likely lose a lot of steam.

In Malacañang, President Aquino remains optimistic that the economy would pick up despite the disappointing first quarter growth figure.

Speaking to reporters in the Palace, the President noted that the country did not fare badly despite the political unrest and other things of producing countries in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the string of disasters in Asian—the Philippines' biggest trading partner and source of foreign remittances.

Mr. Aquino said he remained optimistic over the country's full-year prospects.

In the second quarter, the government will again pump-prime the economy now that oil prices in the market have started to stabilize, he said.

"Ah, before our (growth) numbers (will improve," President Aquino said when he met economic officials on improved the economy's growth figure.

Data from the National Statistics Office showed that the country posted a trade deficit of $5.868 billion in the first quarter, more than double the $2.444 billion recorded in the same period of 2011.

"The wider trade balance is largely a function of a sharp jump in intermediate goods—imports—which implies a rise in commodities rather than housing consumption," said HSBC economist Edward Parker.

CONGRATULATIONS!

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In Loving Remembrance On Her 10th Death Anniversary

CORAZON S. VIRAY

(Wife passed on to Eternal Life on May 31, 1982)

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for the repose of her soul:

1. Sta. Maria Ada, Bicol — Kalayaan Road cor. Rizal St., Q. City, Tgan
2. Sto. Domingo Church — Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Tgan
3. Quezon City Reception Room — UST Chapel, Quezon City, 7:15 pm
4. Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene — Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila, 6pm
5. Cenacle Living of the Universe Parish — Kingspoint, Bagong Nayon, Q. City, 7pm
6. St. Peter Pro of Proteccion — Lina, Quezon City, 6:30 pm
7. Parish of the Lord Divine Mercy — Gladiola Village, Quezon City, 6pm

The family requests the prayer readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

CAPT. JOHNNY SERAFIÑA ANDAYA PN (ret.)

passed away Saturday, May 28, 2011 at the age of 73.

He is survived by his wife:

Col. Estela Soriano Cuenca-Andaya (Retired Colonel, Philippine Marines)
children **Raquel, Adriana** and **Hazel**;
Child-in-law **Rizzy P. Abrahan** (Ph.D.);
Maria Mercedes Galang-Andaya, son-in-law **Francis M. Bascuñan**;
Grandchildren **Jenna Carolina** and **Angelo Luis**;
Brothers **Carmelo, Rigoberto Andaya** (CPT (Ret.), PCPA) **Jose Andaya** (CAPT (Ret.) and **Magdalena Andaya**;
Sisters **Aurora Ngusi Lubbo Aquino, Virginia Bautista, Lillian Abad Myrna Espinosa** and **Dr. Remedios Dumaya**.

His remains lie in state at the Ishinger-ng-Lagi Baptist Church, Taguig City.

Necrological service is on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 (cremation after rites at 02:00 PM) hours.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at the Ishinger-ng-lagi Baptist.

Our beloved mother

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

LEONOR DIZON MACAPAGAL

July 1, 1938 – May 31, 2010

Her husband **Paulino** (†), children **Cesar, Elenita, Lourdes, Perlita, Freddie** (†), **Myrna, Dante, Ruby**, in-laws, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request the prayer readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy mass will be held at St. Nicholas the Tolentine Cathedral, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija on May 31, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

ENRIQUETA CANCIO GONZALES, DDM

of Gangan, Pamplonga and Balanga, Bataan

Born May 5, 1918

who passed away peacefully on May 27, 2011 at the age of 93.

Widow of (†) **DR. BENVENIDO L. GONZALES, SR.**

His beloved children and in-law **BENVENIDO JR.** and **THERESA PIGARO** (Ute), **MELINDA** and **ERNESTO JONES, DR. JOEL** BAPTT and **MERLI DOMINGUEZ** and **ROSE** and **EDDIE PORTILLO**; grandchildren **DR. BEVERLY** and **DR. ROBBIE VICENTE** (Ute), **DR. BRINA** and **DR. DIBIL BARRIENTOS** (Ute), **DR. BRIAN** and **MARIE ABIS** (Ute), **DR. RHAMONIQUE, JOHN MICHAEL, LEONARD G., ENVIS, RENCARLO, JR.GIANNE, TWINGIL** great-grandchildren **MAZA, JOHN, JOSEPH** and **NOAH**

Her remains lie in state at the Domingo Church, Quezon City.

On May 31, 2011 (Tuesday) at 11:00 AM the remains will be transferred to ARNETA PARK Memorial Chapel, Balanga, Bataan.

Interment will be on June 1, 2011 (Wednesday) at the Memorial Park in Balanga City, Bataan after the 2:00 PM Holy Mass at Saint Joseph Cathedral.

REMEDIOS BRINGAS DIMARANAN

Her children, **Danny** & **Rosemarie, Rene** & **Yvonne, Lolo** & **Orion** grandchildren **Shan-Shan, Inna, Mey-Mey, Baron** & **Faith**, great **Oxley** & **Nikay Rocio**; brother **Ruchi** & **Lina** requests the readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz Sucat, Iniok Meals Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Loyola Memorial Park, Pardena on June 02, 2011 after the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Park.

DEATH NOTICE

Jesus "Jesse" C. Magos

(Dec. 25, 1944 – May 24, 2011)

Peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 62.

His remains lie in state in Dolores Subd., Bo. Tabon, Lilo-an, Laguna.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at Lilo-an Cemetery after the 2:00 pm holy mass at St. John the Baptist Parish, Lilo-an, Laguna.

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." - Joshua 23:14

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven."

Always yours,
INQUERIE ORTARDIN
Interment: 5 Hrs

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE

PUBLIC NOTICES

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

HOUSEHOLD

CARS

AUCTION SALE

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

ANNOUNCEMENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

LOT

OTHER EQUIPMENT

WANTED TO BUY

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

ERRATUM

The date for submission of EOI for Project Management and Coordination Specialist under Integrated Protected Organic Pulutants (POPs) Management Project to be procured by the DENR based on the RSOI posted at the Philippine Daily Inquirer on April 5, 2011 is hereby changed from **JUNE 6, 2011 to JUNE 8, 2011**.

More Classifieds

Dep-Ed Div. of Ilocos Sur ..A24

Southville Int'l School A24

BPI/MS Run For A Cause

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLDWIDE RELAY LEGISLATIVE FOR THE earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan. BPI/MS Investment Corp. with BPI Investors Club tackles you to join "Run for A Cause" this June 19, 2011 at the Bonifacio Global City. With 3k, 5k and 10k categories, assembly time is at 10:00am followed by a 6:30 gunstart. Registration fee is at Php 500 with proceeds going to Japan Red Cross. Gather friends and family and run for a cause! For inquiries, please call Maxine Lucero at 889-9414, with email address at mlucero@bpiphp.com or Jon Bergonia at 848-6041 with email address at jmbergonia@bpiphx.com

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids in CASH BASIS and AS IS, WHERE IS basis on June 13, 2011 (Monday), 1:30 p.m. at the Tanggulang Lahat Pantao Penthouse, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City, for the following properties:

CASE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID (Php)
REAL ESTATE				
		ALBAY		
BULACAN				
			Guiguinto Village, Sto. San Roque, Malolos	
			Lot 14, Block 4	
			Lot 22, Block 4	
			Lot 23, Block 4	
			Lot 24, Block 4	
			Lot 25, Block 4	
			Lot

BUSINESS

Anti-Overloading Law debate continues

41-ton limit for trucks shelved for now

By Abigail L. Ho

STAKEHOLDERS will continue the dialogue with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on the implementation of the gross vehicle weight limit provision of the Anti-Overloading Law to finalize the actual weight limit even as this will be imposed.

The DPWH postponed the implementation of the gross vehicle weight provision of the law, which would limit the total weight of trucks and cargo to just 40 tons. Other implemented risk would face vehicles with heavier loads from plying national roads.

The provision was supposed to be implemented on May 1, but the DPWH decided to shelve this indefinitely in light of various suggestions and appeals for further review from stakeholders.

According to the Import Development Council (IDC), one of the groups that opposed to the postponement of the implementation of the law provision, the DPWH was still to talk with the Philippine Ports Authority, the Department of Trade and Industry and other stakeholders to hammer out arrangements for the synchronization of weighing operations when the load limit is imposed.

The revised load limit for each truck and trailer type would also be discussed.

In an earlier interview, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson said the DPWH was open to stakeholders' suggestions to hike the load limit to 50-60 tons, from the 41 tons under the law.

On the minimum tonnage per axle for trucks, however, Singson said he saw no problem. The DPWH on Feb. 1 started enforcing the maximum allowable load limit of 11.5 tons per axle for trucks.

The IDC, in a position paper submitted to the DPWH earlier in the year, warned that the full implementation of the Anti-Overloading Law could make exporters even less competitive, as lower load limits would require more trips, effectively jacking up freight expenses.

The group added that certain provisions of the Anti-Overloading Law could also cause delays in the delivery of imported raw materials, which could then disrupt production schedules. Lack of proper orientation of shippers and truckers, as well as inadequate weighing equipment, could also result in port congestion.

To prevent any of these negative possibilities from materializing, the IDC and the implementation of the law should be deferred until the DPWH-led multilevel-weigh bridges in designated weighing stations are reviewed the implementing rules of the law.

'LALAD BOWL' Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala (right) samples lettuce in the 'salad bowl' of Dupax del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya. Looking on (from left) are Dupax del Sur Vice Mayor Jose Mayaen Sr., Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, Robert Olaguera of DA-Region 2, and farmer leader Marcelo Bana.

Bureau of Copyright to be formed under new act

THE INTELLECTUAL Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) expects a Bureau of Copyright to be established soon, following the approval at the House of Representatives on third reading of a bill amending the Intellectual Property Code.

IPOPHL Director General Ricardo Blancaflor said the creation of the new bureau, which would be under IPOPHL, would be a significant first step toward protecting IP owners in copyright-based industries such as books, film, media and music.

The creation of the bureau was one of the provisions of House Bill No. 5841, which sought to amend the country's Intellectual Property Code.

Once in place, Blancaflor related that the Bureau of Copyright would be tasked with registering artistic and literary works, as well as resolving issues of inattention and plagiarism. It would also regulate activities that would collect royalties on behalf of artists.

While waiting for the establishment of the Bureau of Copyright, IPOPHL helped an agreement with the National Library of the Philippines for the operation of the Copyright Registration and Deposit System (Cards), which would go live next month.

The Cards system aims to give artists, scholars, inventors and other IP holders another way to protect their IP assets. Under the agreement, IPOPHL will accept copyright registration applications on behalf of the NLP and issue copyright certificates.

"Without registration, it will be the onerous of creators, the persons is legally required in order to complete the records of the National Library," Blancaflor explained. "In addition, IPOPHL magnifies the value of the copyright certificate by requiring the applicant to execute an affidavit of ownership, which will be reproduced on the back of each certificate. This serves as prima facie evidence of ownership and may be used in any proceeding."

The first two copyright registration certificates under the Cards system were issued to the Nancy and Cecy Aquino Foundation to be paintings created by the late President Corazon Aquino.

An amended law will also extend the scope of copyright infringement to voluntary infringement, circumvention of technological measures and rights management information as aggravating circumstances. Abigail L. Ho

DOTC firm on Ro-Ro deal review

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) said its ongoing review of several billion-peso projects approved by the last administration was meant to ensure that the government gets the best possible.

DOTC Undersecretary Jimmy Bitanes on Monday hit back at French consortium Eiffel Ukanse for threatening to sue the government for delays in the Cavite-Laguna Access (CLEX) toll project.

A review committee formed by DOTC Secretary Jose de Jesus recommended the project's cancellation after finding several concession provisions in the P11.5-billion contract.

"We are reviewing all of the project's provisions. It's well within the responsibility of the DOTC to ascertain the contract so that we can get the best terms for the government," Bitanes said in an interview.

Eiffel Ukanse's local representative, Fritch Azuela, in the weekend said the company may file a complaint against the government with international arbitration courts if the deal is scuttled.

The project, which involves the construction of 72 Ro-ro-designed toll-ins, will-off ports, said the country is funded by a loan from State-based JBIC facilities. The funds appointed $4bn billion as the project's contractor.

The construction of the ports was supposed to start last year. However, the contract was included in several projects put on hold by the DOTC to check for possible irregularities.

"The price of the project is not the only factor. There are other considerations," Velasco said.

Rate hikes still possible, says BSP

By Richelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has raised that another interest rate hike is still possible even if the economy grew slower than anticipated in the first quarter.

According to BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo, significant inflationary pressures remain, while the slowdown in the economy is likely to be temporary.

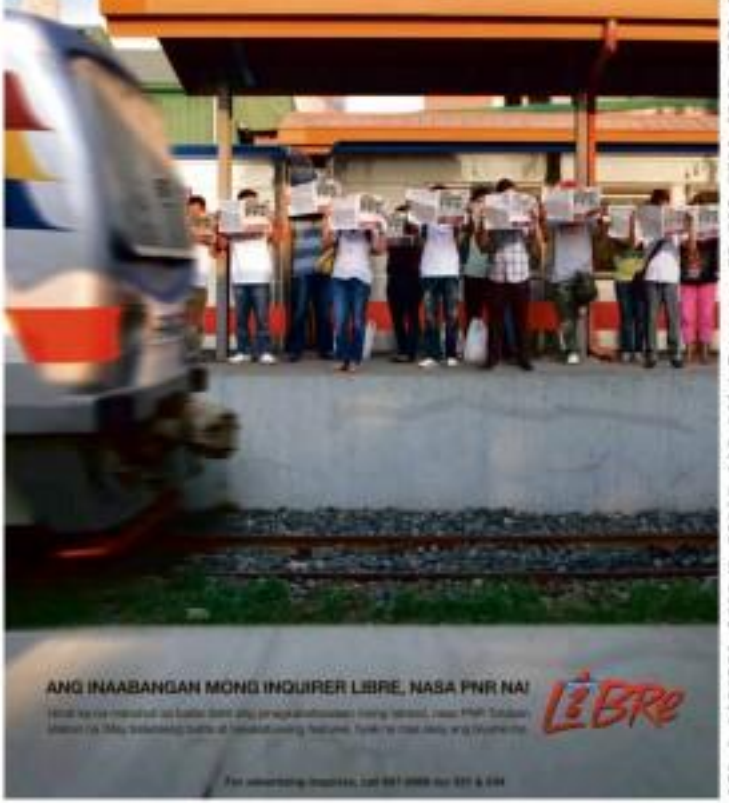
"From a monetary perspective, we believe inflation remains a major concern and monetary vigilance of monetary policy is more than warranted. We also believe that the pulled-down economic performance is transitory," Guinigundo told reporters.

The BSP has already hiked its key policy rates twice this year, each by 25 basis points. The first was in March and the second was earlier this month. These have brought the overnight borrowing and lending rates, which influence commercial interest rates, to 4.5 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively.

Higher interest rates were meant to make borrowing more expensive, thereby suppressing demand-induced inflationary pressures. The BSP said that without the rate hikes, inflation could breach the 2011 target ceiling of 5 percent for the year because of pressures coming from rising global oil prices.

Higher interest rates, since it tempers demand, tends to slow down growth.

The economy, measured in terms of gross domestic product, grew by 4.8 percent in the first quarter of the year, the National Statistical Coordination Board reported yesterday.



LIFESTYLE Wellness
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

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Lisa Macuja bids goodbye to major dance roles

The prima ballerina will slow down in the next three years because of acute tendonitis

By Joseph Cuyos
Contributor

LISA Macuja-Elizalde

FOR THE past five years, Lisa Macuja-Elizalde has been announcing her farewell to Kitri, the naughty lass in the ballet Don Quixote, which has been her signature dance role.

This time, she is saying goodbye, in the next three years, to some of her leading roles. Blame it on acute tendonitis that had her going under the knife last December, following a performance of "Le Spectacle" that she is confident that her legacy as a ballerina and artistic director of Ballet Manila (BM) will be enriched by many ballerinas and dancers she has nurtured.

"My doctor was surprised that my tendonitis acted up only now at my age," says Elizalde during the press lunch last week for Ballet Manila's world tour of London, Ireland, Singapore and Korea in June and July. "He did the little operation on my foot before Christmas, and he guarantees that I can still see myself dancing in the next three or four years."

That would give her ample time to execute full productions of some of the world's best-loved ballets where she inside a name for herself. First up this October will be her farewell to "Swan Lake," which has her wearing the twin roles of Odette/Odile, the good and the bad swan. Next year will see her bidding adieu to Giselle in a full production of "Don Quixote" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Other roles such as the Sugarplum Fairy in "The Nutcracker," Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet," and "Giselle" will follow.

'Not just about me'

"I am confident that when I leave these roles behind, people would still come to the Miss Theater to watch performances of Ballet Manila because we have so many ballerinas who are capable as I am. Eventually when I stop dancing, people would stop referring to Ballet Manila as Dr. Lisa Macuja Dance Company. It's not just about me. We are an entire company of dancers."

In contrast, she stressed that she is saying goodbye only to full productions of these ballets, which are gnawing on her feet. She would still dance to the joie de deux of these ballets in future BM shows.

Elizalde, 46, is celebrating her 27th year as ballerina. It was a long, successful career that saw her becoming the first Asian ballerina dancing solos in the legendary Bolshoi Ballet. Since then, she was seen dancing on the world's foremost stages before she founded in Iloilo her own dance company, Ballet Manila, in 1995.

Tricket Dee, choreographer of choreographer Eric Cruz, the company brought ballet around the Philippines, with critics and the public alike hailing her as the "ballerina of the people." Following Cruz's death, she took over the leadership of the company with her longtime dance partner Orlan Ra-

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Lisa Macuja bids goodbye to major dance roles

Story on page C1

AS DELILA

one as ballet master, teaching SM's newest generation of dancers in the highly rigorous Balanchine method.

Through the years, Ballet Manila has brought dance around the Philippines and the world. His older steps exposure to different kinds of audiences helps greatly in the development of their dancers. This season, the company will perform in London, Ireland, Singapore, Gyeongju and Andong in South Korea, and Jakarta, Indonesia.

The performances in Ireland are being staged upon the suggestion of Dermot Meaney, a leading member of the Filipino community in Dublin, who wanted to showcase Manila's talents before an Irish audience.

After two years of negotiations and preparations, SM is bringing 18 dancers for performances from July 6-9 at the Cork Opera House, University Concert Hall in Limerick City, the Millennium Rooms at Derry City, and the Dublin Convention Center.

AS Odile in "Swan Lake"

London shows

Four shows are slated from June 30-July 2 at the Shaw Theater in London. The performances are being presented with the Philippine Embassy in London and the International Society of London.

Following their shows in the UK, SM is fielding its dancers in a co-production with the Singapore Dance Theater (SDT) in performances at the opera on Pori Canoeing Park from July 31-31. Then the Singapore Dance Theater will fly to Manila to present the same show at the Aliw Theater from July 29-31. This co-production will feature both Filipino and Singaporean dance pieces, as well as Philippine premieres of choreographies by George Balanchine. This exchange is also made possible through Kantor Pro Physical Theatre.

"I think being able to collaborate with an Asian ballet company that is not one will only be beneficial to both SM and SDT," she says. "I am hoping that this is the beginning of a long partnership and other collaborations between our two companies."

Ballet Manila travels to South Korea for shows at the Fifth World Gyeongju Culture Expo 2012 from Sept. 6-11 and at the Andong International Mask Festival from Sept. 22-Oct. 7. To complete its performances this season, the company travels to Jakarta, Indonesia for a series of shows with Ballet Indonesia from Jan. 31-20, 2013.

Elizalde stresses the value of forging partnerships with foreign dance groups.

"I think it is very important to expose young dancers to different artists, choreographers, and companies. You encounter different dance techniques, work ethics and cultures, and are exposed to colleagues in a learning, collaborative setting. One can exchange ideas, inspire dancers," she says. "It is also a wonderful opportunity to get exposure in a different audience. In fact, it is very common to have many ballet companies that share ballets, sets, costumes, and dancers among because both companies end up benefitting from combining resources."

Call 0189002252 or 0189002987; e-mail info@ballet manila.ph; or visit www.ballet manila.ph.

Eat to heal

"THE HUMAN body has the power to generate energy and by so doing, to heal itself. But in order to keep the generator within in good running condition, here are a few reminders.

Body talk

•Frequency and smallness... It doesn't really matter how many times you eat just make sure they are moderate portions. How small? Let's say half a dinner plate will do.

To small? By reducing healthy meals, the body's chance of diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol can be avoided.

•Choose healthy... The challenge now is what to put in your mouth. If you already go by the decision of your taste buds, you will small yourself with anything but healthy. Instead of consuming greasy, the place, steak, fatten, pasta, chips, ice cream, and burger all the nutritious things like fresh green salad, fruits in season, seaweed fish, lean meat.

The above is a compromise if you have not considered the art of balance? Let's meet halfway. Begin with the new food first, fresh greens and fruits. Wait 15 minutes, then take a small portion of your favorite food, even if it is unhealthy. By small, I mean no more than one cup. At least try.

Then, even if you're a carnivore person, you can alternate the days with fish. This way you are living the science of eating right. By drinking green and fresh juices every meal, you are giving your digestive system a healthy break.

•Keep it revenged... Do not go for long periods without food in your stomach; you will run out of steam fast. Blood sugar and the sequence are common weak-

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

ness, cold sweats, hypoglycemia. All these cause your body to [illegible], which is very [illegible].

So, keep your [illegible] with something [illegible] by choosing [illegible] you increase your blood [illegible] level. Studies have also shown that [illegible] and healthier.

•Alcohol... Alcohol, sugar and [illegible] lowers [illegible] heart [illegible] pairs [illegible] calorie [illegible] lowers [illegible] diabetes [illegible] insurance [illegible].

Special [illegible] considered as [illegible] aging ingredient.

Orange/red [illegible] Men [like squash]... to carotene, they [illegible] cancer, heart [illegible].

Chocolate... This is [illegible] positive [illegible] fights cancer of the [illegible] stomach, liver and [illegible].

Cruciferous [illegible] Men... Broccoli, [illegible] huge (the more [illegible] better, [illegible] cell [illegible] million-plus [illegible] cancers, all cancers [illegible].

Garlic, onions, [illegible] mushrooms... All contain [illegible] known anticancer [illegible] during the growth of [illegible].

Soy... A high protein [illegible]

Listerine launches 'Dare to Get Total Care' mouth health challenge

LISTERINE MOUTHWASH brand is the country has introduced its newest innovation for mouth total care and total oral health... the Listerine Total Care Mouthwash.

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As the newest group launch of Listerine Total Care Mouthwash at Downa se Ken Miguel by the Reg. Listerine introduced to the media and brand influencers the six-week "Dare to Get Total Care" chal-

QUANDrant host Rica Robles and Style Weekend's Kristine Serrano

lenge. Led by health enthusiasts and Listerine Total Care ambassador Dave Arellano, the challenge will be participated in by dental professionals, influential bloggers, who will document their journey toward achieving the six essential signs of a health mouth with Listerine Total Care.

Visit www.facebook.com/listerineph.com.

(L) PHILIPPINES professional marketing manager Elaine Villarosa, main speaker Dr. Rogene marketing director Tina Kabaena, management trainee Ria Estrellon, Listerine Total Care ambassador Dave Arellano, Listerine senior brand manager Karen Co and (R) Philippines marketing manager for consumer healthcare Israel Quisaba

RESIDENT DENTOLOGIST Dr. Regine Morales gives a on the 6 Essential signs of a healthy mouth.

They don't know yet that they're dead

"I AM still in a state of shock," said Nina, a nurse in a Quezon City hospital. "I hope you can explain this thing that happened to me a few days ago."

Nina came to see her twice to this column.

"Three days ago I met a patient in the hospital named Sarah. I noticed she was always alone. And as I befriended her, Sarah was different from an ordinary 12-year old child, because she talked like an adult.

"She told me she wanted to be a ballerina when she grew up, but she lost her leg in an accident. Whenever I had free time, I would see her in her ward.

"Whenever I was there, she would always ask me to get her comb from inside a side drawer and play it for her.

"This evening, at exactly 7, a woman came and asked a comb some if she could get something her daughter had left in their ward. (which was very important to her. The male nurse instead requested me to accompany the woman, since I often visited that room.

"I thought the arrogant of that nurse would end, until I saw her went to check something that was left behind by another patient.

"When I opened the door, I was surprised that Sarah wasn't there anymore. The room was clean, as if unused. The woman who followed me went directly to the side drawer, opened it, and found the comb there. She said it belonged to her daughter, who was released from the hospital on May 16.

"She said her daughter had an accident while riding with her uncle on his motorcycle, which hit an electric post.

"When I heard that, I couldn't speak. As the woman left, I rushed to the morgue downstairs and asked the man in charge if there was a 12-year-

INNER AWAKENING

Jaime T. Licauco

old girl named Sarah who was brought there. I was shocked when I saw the file that Sarah was declared dead at 2:30 pm on May 12."

Nina, what happened to you is not really strange or impossible. I would not even say that it is rare. Similar things have been experienced by many people, but they don't talk about these things for fear that people might think they are making things up or imagining them.

Catapulted

People who die suddenly and unexpectedly also get into a state of shock. They are sudden-

People who die suddenly go into a state of shock, not aware that they are already in the spirit world—as this nurse found out

ly catapulted from the physical to the spiritual world without any warning or preparation. They are not aware that they are already in the spirit world. They still see and behave as they did when still alive.

They may visit the usual place where they used to live, work, or play. It would take some time before

them to realize and accept that they have already left their mortal bodies, and that they are no longer on the physical plane.

It is not true that the spirits of the dead always go to heaven or earth, then go elsewhere. This period varies from person to person, depending on his status or level of consciousness. Some may linger on the earth plane for years, like Elvis Presley, who was still being seen in Memphis more than 20 years after he died. Some spirits ascend to the higher planes immediately after death, and are seen or heard no more.

The fact that you saw and talked to the dead Sarah and she was alive and in a solid form means that your state-aspect of vision, or what is popularly called the Third Eye, is open. You are a medium or a channel of the spirits, whether you believe it or not.

My opinion is bolstered by the story you related in your second e-mail to me before I could answer your first one. The [illegible] about the time you were born on your way home, your Mother's [illegible] found yourself in a strange [illegible] with fewer carriages. [illegible] appreciated you and your Creator. Immediately [illegible] went back to your normal [illegible] the present time, all [illegible] visiting back home. You [illegible] glimpse of your past life.

The next Book [illegible] next Sunday will be [illegible] June 4-6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., [illegible] Sanctuary, Ilaw ng, and the [illegible] seminar will be [illegible] on June 20-20, 9 a.m.-[illegible] Call 8102326 [illegible] 8120900 or [illegible] 8939262.

E-mail [illegible] him.com or visit [illegible] www.jtlicauco.com.

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June 3 - 15: SM Southmall (Cyberzone)
June 10 - 22: SM Megamall (Across Power Mac)
June 24 - 29: SM City Marikina (Cyberzone)
July 3 - 6: SM City Cebu (Event Center)

SM SUPERMALLS

intel inside CORE i5 Visibly Smart NEW!

The Lenovo IdeaPad Z Series is powered by the 2nd Generation Intel® Core™ i5 Processor. Visibly Smart Performance with a Boost.

Student week with auction, concert, bazaar

THE ASIAN Institute of Management (AIM)'s Graduate School of Business celebrates Student Week '11 on May 29-June 3, at the AIM campus along Paseo de Roxas in Makati. Student Week '11 will feature student-organized events and activities.

Student Week '11 will be highlighted by three main events: "AIM Charity Auction," "Bazaar," and "Guinness Rocks!".

"Guinness" will run from June 1-3, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the AIM Lawn in front Siburan Hall. Selected dry goods and food/beverage companies will be selling their products in this weekend market-style event.

Interesting AIM alumni-student events will be "Business Rocks!", a rock concert on June 3, 8 p.m., also at the AIM parking lot. Sponsored by San Miguel Brewery Inc., the event will feature artists such as Kitchie Nadal and Calista Calalio, and bands such as Bayanihan, Parokya ni Edgar, Rocksteddy, Rebelution, Hybrid, Hometown and Bayan.

Visit www.aim.edu, www.theaimblog.com or AIM Student Week '11 at Facebook, e-mail studentaffairs@aim.edu or visit Asian Institute of Management in at Rockwell Center, Makati.

Lopez Foundation Goldberg, Joseph R. McMicking Galleries, 123 Paseo de Roxas, Mkti. Call 892-8011 to 30.

SEAIR launches inaugural flight to Macau

South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR), the Philippines' premier leisure airline, launched its first flight to Macau via Clark last May 27, using its 144-seat Airbus A319 jet aircraft.

SEAIR's offering Macau fares for as low as P9,888 one-way, inclusive of taxes, terminal charges, with June 1 - 2011. The promo is for limited seats for travel on June 7 to Oct. 25.

The airline flies Clark-Macau daily at 2 p.m. and Macau-Clark daily at 4:35 p.m. until June 30, 2011. From July 1 to October 25, 2011, Clark-Macau flights will be at 2:35 p.m. and Macau-Clark flights are at 4:50 p.m.

The former Portuguese colony offers vacationers a unique "East meets West" cultural experience, with stylish Art Deco buildings alongside Chinese temples and ancient and modern baroque churches.

At the heart of the peninsula is the Historic Center of Macau, a UNESCO World Heritage site, consisting of over 20 land marks reflecting the iconic Ruins of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Macau is also known as the "Las Vegas of the East," with big name franchises such as the Venetian and MGM Grand from the latest trailer situated on recently reclaimed land.

Macau has something for every vacationer, whether one prefer's sampling Portuguese delicacies like sardine in club cafe or Taipa village, getting acquainted with the giant statues of Matsu, Goddess of the Sea, or simply admiring the view atop the Macau Tower.

SEAIR also offers daily flights and this travel fares to Singapore and Hong Kong.

To purchase tickets, visit www.flyseair.com or call 849-0100. For updates on promos and more dates, like SEAIR on Facebook at www.facebook.com/flyseair.

CLARK CRAZE FUN RUN

KIDS' memorable encounter with farm animals during the recent Clark Craze Fun Run is to be held on May 29. Check out the big fish catching, giant slide adventure and cross-country run can never be a part of the thrilling activities at the Zoocobia Fun Zoo located at Aeta Paradise Ranch Inside Clark, Pampanga. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca8499N6j4.

Grand Makati sale

The first Grand Makati Sale, a shopping event conceivable to neighbor-ing Chinatown Hongkong, Thailand and Korea will be on from June 8-July 3.

The annual shopping extravaganza takes shape thanks to a pledge on goods and services marked down at up to 70 percent off at participating stores across the city.

Participating establishments include department, like-wise, Kultura, Kultura's Department Store, Home Specialist Stores, Power Plant Mall, Rustan Commercial, Rustan Supermarket and Cash & Carry. The Makati Medical Center is also offering discounts on its executive check-up packages.

The Grand Makati Sale 2011 provides the latest in fashion, accessories, jewelry, electronic goods, home and office wares.

The Grand Makati Sale 2011 joins Makati City is celebrating 424 years, and kicks off with a float during the Makati City Foundation Day Parade on May 28, this organized by the Makati Tourism Foundation Inc. Email grandmakatisale@gmail.com.

Araneta Center sale

Araneta Center's Gateway Mall, Ali Mall and Farmers Bazar will drop their prices on select all items by as much as 70 percent until May 31.

Join the "Trip, Trip, Hooray" promo for a two-weekend vacation in Europe for four. A purchase P500 from any establishment gives you to a raffle coupon. You can double your chances of winning by purchasing Coke products or the food outlets. Promo runs until June 19.

Cowboy Grill celebrates 17 years

As a way of thanking loyal patrons for 17 years, Cowboy Grill presents its most extravagant anniversary promo "17 to 1 Promo," until July 17 at all Cowboy Grill branches. Diners will get a chance to win a brand new Chevy Car and other cool gadgets from promo partners. Every P500 an-Diner can be a raffle coupon which should be submitted on the day itself to be able to join the lucky draw conference. Every participating restaurant should a monthly chance to raffle off cellphones, iPads, laptops and motorcycles and lots of gift certificates plus Cowboy Grill shirts. Monthly draw dead-lines for submissions of entries are as follows: May 28, June 4, June 25, July 7 and July 21. All names drawing secondary draw and two will automatically be included in the Grand Draw for the brand new car which is set on July 3. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 31.

Amis stamps

The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) recently released special stamps honoring the new National Bike Ball Sport of the Philippines—"amis."

The special stamp dedication the renowned unit art of amis which promotes the artistry and ingenuity of the Filipino.

PHLPost Protege and Philatelic Department manager Lorelei San Diego said PHLpost hopes to contribute in the propagation of the sport not only in the Philippines, but throughout the world with the release of the special stamps.

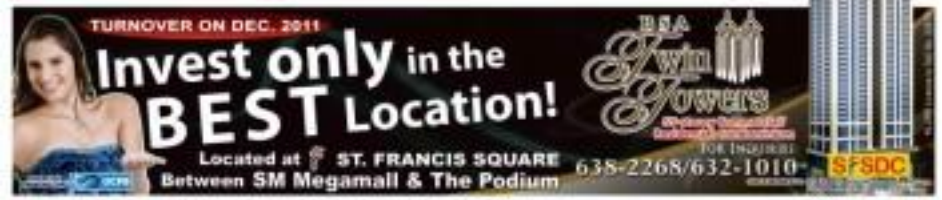
San Diego added that the commemoration of the special stamps will also boost the popularity of amis as one ball art and construct spur it on the global scene.

It can run on the Grand Reunion National Games and Sports of the Philippines or 2009, by virtue of Republic Act 9850. According to Ruy Elmer Salvaro, president of amis Philippines, the law authorizes as part of the Filipino heritage and cultivate in the minds of our people the sense of nationalism, patriotism, unity and identity.

The launching of the stamps will also coincide with the conclusion of the sport for the 2011 Philippine National games which was held in the cities of Bacolod, Iloilo, Talisay, and today in Negros Oriental.

The limited edition stamps are available at Manila Central Post Office.

LIFESTYLE Wellness



Travel and fitness are among Piolo's top priorities

PIOLO Pascual

Traveling keeps him 'sane' and working out has him in bed by 9 p.m., says the actor, who has been taking his favorite vitamin brand since his 20s

By Irene C. Pena

PIOLO PASCUAL is busy—he is filming and producing a movie, making TV appearances, shooting ads for print and TV—but he believes being loaded is never an excuse for missing out on two important things: travel and fitness.

The lithe and toned actor has a natural way, thanks to frequent hourly trips. He makes it a point to go diving at least once a month at shallow yet longer breaks. He heads off to Cebu or to Palawan.

"I was in Palawan recently, diving with a Russian and a German guy, and we couldn't understand each other," he said, laughing.

Fresh from his reaction in New York, Pascual sat down for an interview at Chateau 1771 in Makati to tell us about "God mates" Cocoplum Getaways Points (See story on Page D2). He has been endorsing the vitamin brand for three years now.

Traveling keeps him "sane." In fact, a two-month vacation leave is a must in his contract with ABS-CBN. Taiwan Gamer, his spouse, the Fave diva, visits family in the US, or going around Europe. The rest of the year, he's hooked codal.

Travel savvy

Pascual is a savvy traveler. He regularly gets online to look for good deals, and prefers to DIY than to join convenient all-in tours which often include unnecessary stops.

Friends ask him where to stay, which area to visit and where to eat the best delicacies.

"I give them information according to their needs. I ask them about their budget, how long they are staying, is it their first or nth time to go, I recommend restaurants, so on. I give them contacts, directions."

He enjoys organizing family trips. The last one was to Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, with his mom, sister, nephews and nieces. They naturally planned to go to India, but there were glitches in the visa applications. Vietnam was a practical choice.

"I found an affordable hotel. We went to the Cu Chi tunnels and War Museum. Very

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPIN BY JED ABRERA

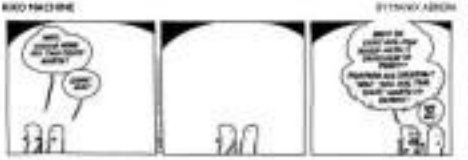
PUGAD BABOY BY ROLAND LOYOLA

DICK TRACY

LOVE MEOWTS BY ELIZABETH MCDONALD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

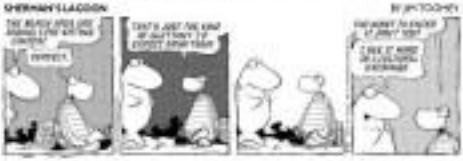
KUKO MACHINE BY FRANCO ABRON



SEPH BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULADA BY MARA CRUZ

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 20) Be the model who you want that financial control. Only. Refreshing participants. Increase your checking account for. Make an impression. Be open. Could your foreign. Be open. Be open. Be open.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 20) Communications with people in authority — your boss, parents, VIPs — set the pace — an outlook to extraordinary today. Mastery activity. Others may be more self-centered than usual. Be open. Be open. Be open.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Communication might come on to you this morning, perhaps about something big to do with politics, religion or faraway places. Make your opinions count for how you see. Be open. Be open.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You consider that someone might overlook you today, especially in a group situation. If you are particular something today is going on, it may take it.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) It's hard to know where to begin. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Be the center place. Mastery. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You're a team day to decide how to divide an inheritance or share something. You might not have all the facts. In fact, someone might be keeping them from you. Be open. Be open. Be open.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't know before you speak to something private, especially with partners and close friends. Conversations are long and very easy to misunderstand. Be careful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be calm. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Work on how much is your interest in something today? Learn more. Be open. Be open. Be open.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Be the kind of person who will spend a lot of time today daydreaming or fantasizing about what might be. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open. Be open.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

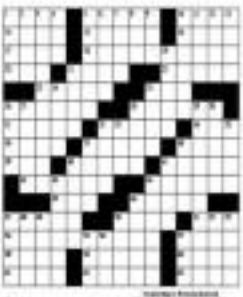
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku By Steve Hanna

9		3	7				5	
	5			1			2	8
					6			
3			6				8	
	2						3	
	7				8			5
		5						
1	8			7			6	
	9				5	7		4

Difficulty Level: ★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Buy your tickets on the SM Cinema website—and pay via Globe Gcash

SM CINEMA, the largest local chain of movie theaters today, in partnership with Globe Telecom, is introducing the first movie ticketing in the country that will enable moviegoers to purchase tickets from the SM Cinema website, conveniently, via her online using GCASH, and redeem it at the cinemas using a mobile phone.

To access SM Cinematicket, just log on to www.smcinema.com, create an account, purchase tickets, and choose the "Via GCASH" payment option. Once payment has been made, an SMS confirmation containing the eTicket will be sent to the customer, which they can scan on kCode machines located at the cinemas. Inhibers to manually print the movie ticket.

Moviegoers are assured of a safe and easy transaction, as the eTicket service is compatible with any mobile phone, secured by encoding and authenticating the SMS-based encrypted codes from the handset system using Globe's interactive 3G-enabled screening terminals. SM Cinematicket is also available for BINX Theaters and SM Digital Theaters.

In addition, from May 1 up to June 30, 2011, Globe is giving free GCASH Cards to subscribers who will buy SM Cinema tickets online using GCASH. GCASH Card is the first fully customizable RFID card linked to a mobile wallet in the country, giving its subscribers 24/7 access to GCASH.

GCASH, a mobile money transfer service developed by Globe Telecom, has become the fastest growing money service for online shopping, gaming, and payment sites both in the Philippines and abroad. From person-to-person transfers to airtime load purchases and bills payments, GCASH has expanded to let users pay meals and has now become a major payment option in Duty-free Shoppers.

As an added customer service, Globe and TM subscribers who want to use GCASH may call the 24/7 GCASH Customer Service Hotline 2882 FREE to top their SIMs or TM cellphone or 09167536882 from any landline.

Travel and fitness are among Piolo's top priorities

From page D1

CHAMPION endorser Piolo Pascual and brand manager Joy Ong

PASCUAL prefers taking photos during trips over shopping, save for swimwear fridge magnets which he collects.

famous food into great, too. When traveling, I prefer to spend more on tours and food than accommodations and extras," he said. "Organizing a big group is challenging, especially if traveling with old people like my mom and three kids. So, we have to make an itinerary that fits all."

Most people get impatient with delays and mishaps, but he welcomes them as his "realtime to relax." A 12-hour flight is even been been an hot box hour movies on board and takes naps in between. On his recent Manila-Japan-Siem bonkong, he went "sniffing" in the airport during layovers. During a shoot in Japan, he woke up extra early to check out the parks because, work usually cuts up too late for a stroll.

He drives slow as "therapy" something he's been doing since he was growing up in the US, where he'd drive across the roads and stop every night to his rest.

Europe is his favorite place abroad, and he went there with girlfriend KC Concepcion to do a film. He is planning to visit Russia, India and Republic soon.

Complete lifestyle

Maintaining a smooth career and a personal life could be crazy for having a complete lifestyle is possible, and Centrum brand manager Ary Ong.

Centrum's Complete Collection Theme, ongoing until June 15, will raffle off packages for two to Boracay, Cebu, Palawan, Hong Kong and Singapore—and by "complete," it means they'll take care of everything, from transport to and from the airport, accommodation, food, meals and pocket money.

"Centrum has a balanced formula, especially for active adults. Another variant is Centrum Silver For Boost 50 years old and up," Ong explained.

Pascual has been taking Centrum since his 20s. Back then, his mom would send him Centrum by the bottle from the US. It is available locally at P9 to Php9 packs of 12 in drugstores.

The party life is over for the 34-year-old actor. He sleeps around 9 p.m., and wakes up as early as 4 a.m. to go jogging, biking, swimming—and sometimes he does three of the s-day.

While most people struggle to keep a routine, he has a daily "personal trainer" to him.

"I'm a little out of OP Different ergo biking on Edsa. Then back to my home gym to lift weights. I have a trainer for each area, h."

He welcomes fans stopping him on his tracks for photos, but competitions are an exception.

"I was running in a fitness for a triathlon and an old lady got shot because she was wrong and I couldn't move back. I was, in the route, and I need to stop. I hope people understand that I won't being stylish... I just had a race to finish."

Centrum recently took members of the media to Boracay for a preview of the Complete Selection Package which included airport service, round trip tickets via Cebu Pacific, three-day two-night stay in Diniwid Beach Station 1, full course meals and a courtesy massage in Nin Island Spoon Bowl of the Pacific.

Activities included helmet diving (with underwater video and photos), Zorb ride (a Zorb is a giant bubble with water you get into which will then roll down a hill, simulating a cross between a water slide and roller coaster), ATV and banger rides (on an all-terrain vehicle you can drive along the main road far off the beach), and a trek to Mt. Luho, with a mini zoo and viewing deck where you can have a panoramic shot of the island.

All packages include pool/diving shopping. Pascual buys fridge magnets on his trips which he manages on a wall at home, and rather than buying knick-knacks, he prefers taking photos during travels.

HELMET diving, banger and Zorb rides

NITO Pacific offers wall climbing, pool and gym use. Tie-in lunch resaurant serves fresh seafood, Filipino favorites, coffee and dessert).

Centrum gives away travel packages for two

CENTRUM COMPLETE Getaways package lets you win a trip for two in Boracay, Cebu, Palawan, Singapore and HK.

To join, get 12 pieces of Centrum foil packs (equivalent to 12 tablets) on an envelope and include your name, contact number, address and signature. Drop envelope corresponds to a raffle entry. Drop in designated boxes in drugstores as mall to:

Pfizer Consumer Healthcare
C-03 Ayala Harbour Observatory
M. J. Bldg., Rockefeller cor. South Superhighway
Sun Cebu Ayala 1204

Deadline for submission of entries is on June 15. All trips may be booked until Dec. 15.

DAGAYO on trips to Pulo Pacific's Garden Cafe

Conditions, prices include round-trip tickets for two to Palawan, Boracay and Cebu via Cebu Pacific.

MEDICard. The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge, Doc!

BACK & HIP STRETCH

No time to work out? Sneak in some activity into your workday with this simple stretching exercise:

BACK & HIP STRETCH

- Bend left leg over right leg and look over left shoulder
- Place right hand on left thigh and apply pressure
- Hold position for 8 – 10 seconds
- Repeat for right side

LOREN LEGARDA MEETS WITH BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS

Benin B. Legarda Foundation founder Sen. Loren Legarda (rainer in the message of appreciation of International Pink Boxing Gloves coach and team captain Mary Connelly.

(Jed photo)

The International Pink Boxing Gloves from the US and Canada, all breast cancer survivors who are participating in the forthcoming Boxing Olympian Blood Competitions, are warmly welcomed by Sen. Loren Legarda and officials of her Benin B. Legarda Foundation.

MEDICard Lifestyle Center soon to open

An artist's impression of the MEDICard Lifestyle Center reception lobby

MEDICard Philippines, Inc. (MPI), one of the country's leading health maintenance organizations, will soon open the MEDICard Lifestyle Center located at No. 11 Panay Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati City.

A first-of-its-kind, the MEDICard Lifestyle Center is designed to offer effective solutions for wellness and lifestyle diseases. Housed in a new and modern setting, the MEDICard Lifestyle Center will be home to, among others, a state-of-the-art dermatological clinic, a fitness facility, an eye and dental center, two dental clinics and a yoga center. The MEDICard Lifestyle Center will also have a coffee shop that will serve organic food to help clients stay on track of their health and fitness goals.

"The MEDICard Lifestyle Center will leverage our MPI's concept of one-link-oriented total health care to deliver unparalleled lifestyle and wellness services to our growing clientele," says MPI president Dr. Hilby Montoya. He adds that health is affected by one's lifestyle and through the MEDICard Lifestyle Center, Dr. Montoya wishes some of MPI hope to achieve positive and lasting changes in each person's health and wellness.

Complementing the MEDICard Lifestyle Center's offerings are MPI's comprehensive number of accredited health practitioners, highly competent physicians, other health professionals and staff who will ensure that clients receive the service and care that they deserve. "Apart from providing our clients with modern facilities for their well-being, we also take great care to be as convenient as it can be possible. At the MEDICard Lifestyle Center, one of our many goals is to provide total customer experience."

Conveniently located at the heart of the Makati business center, the MEDICard Lifestyle Center also provides residents of nearby communities convenience access to the Center's wide array of quality wellness and lifestyle procedures, which are administered by highly accredited medical professionals.

The Center will be fully operational by June of this year, says Dr. Montoya, adding that with its opening, he hopes it brought to making MPI the company that people always rely on for their health and wellness needs. For more details about the MEDICard Lifestyle Center, call 894-0720, 894-6000 or email inquiry@medicardphils.com.

Roche to present progress in skin, lung, and ovarian cancers at clinical oncology meet

ROCHE announced this week that data showing new personalized therapeutic approaches for people with skin and lung cancer, plus new data with bevacizumab in ovarian cancer, will be presented at the 47th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). At the meeting that is taking place on June 3 to 7, 2011, in Chicago, Roche and Genentech's investigational and approved cancer medicines will be featured in approximately 300 abstracts across more than 30 cancer types.

"Our goal is to develop cancer medicines that improve care in a way that is meaningful to patients and their doctors," said Dr. Hal Barron, M.D., chief medical officer and head, Global Product Development.

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world's largest biotech company with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, virology, inflammation, metabolism and CNS.

Roche is also the world leader in in vitro diagnostics, tissue-based cancer diagnostics, and a pioneer in diabetes management. Roche's personalized healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostic tools that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life, and survival of patients. For more information: www.roche.com.

Art events, street party to mark Rizal's 150th birthday

A PREESS preview and opening of the art event "RIZALizing the Present" will be held on June 2, Thursday, 7 p.m., with a special press preview of the exhibition a day before it opens to the public. This includes a tour by museum curator Jeannie Javelosa, followed by opportunities for shooting/photography and a Q&A and refreshments with members of the press, bloggers, and yachtsenconsumers followers. Formal opening is on June 3, Friday, 6:30 p.m.

Rizal's 150th birth anniversary and the Fachequer Group of Companies' 100th anniversary will also be marked by a street party and concert on June 3, Friday, 8 p.m., at the SOHO Plaza Courtyard to kick off the "Nights of Rizal" lineup of events. Bring your friends for a night of DJ music, singers, artists, "Sob Mo Tanguro" inspired cuisine, and a Rizaliana book and merchandise fair. The event is in partnership with Bed, Manila Vets, Pin r Dance, Bookish, Team Manila, Anvil Publishing, and the Philippine Coffee Board. Event is free and open to the public.

TUESDAY
MAY 31, 2011
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
E!
Edry Emerie G. Velarde
ENTERTAINMENT

REMITTANCE MO, KUHA AGAD DITO!

LBC

Instant pick-up in over 900 branches nationwide, kaya milyon-milyong tiwala sa LBC Remit Express!

LBC REMIT

Club gig presents new Pinoy songwriters

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor
Photos by Arnold Almosara

THE LOCAL music industry is often lost in a lack of new, original songs—the kind that would enable a discriminating youth audience, for last Saturday at the Cove Music on upper St. Mesa, shone of the 1st Dimension Regional Songwriting Camp proved otherwise, by performing for their own compositions.

Product of 5-day workshop

A project of the young organization Tiwid Music Makers, "Dimension" gathered 60 aspiring musicians/songwriters for a five-day workshop held Siargao last last year in Dumaguete City. The campers were mentored by Ryan Cayabyab, Joey Ayala, Jim Paredes, Noel Cabangon, Joey Ayala, Gary Valenciano among other artists, who talked about the music industry and tools of songwriting and music production.

Nervous excitement

"The atmosphere at Cove Room remained the same, nervous excitement most: While some performers chatted over drinks with family and friends who came to watch, others busied themselves with sound checks and last minute run-through of songs.

The front acts were camp buddies Jessie Mendez and Chicser Suatos. Both dreamy, 25, and Chicser, 20, have never played a gig before, and were admittedly nervous. She was still wild the first time she went onstage, "you're flying inexplicably up there," Chicser told Entertainment in the restrained a nervous disposition her guitar.

Jessie and Chicser were met with applause as they proceeded with their set. Blessed with charming singing voices, the ladies gave a couple of their multiple yet arresting melodies. Jessie was first with a rather self-explanatory song called "Playboy."

Then Chicser followed with her melancholic "Hunted," before proudly announcing that her next song, "Dreaming Aeria," will be accorded by a mystery artist/s.

Wrapping up the set, Jessie gave a poignant performance of "Dalaga Ako," about long-distance relationships.

The next three hours blazed with non-stop original music from the talented bunch. Sasha Sabalza and Dennis Jacoba gave the audience a healthy dose of synth.

Speech pathologist Kat Lopez was impressive in her bluesy, cappella performance of a newly written song whose lyrics she read from her phone.

Lyn Cabo teamed up with Miji de Belen and channeled Up Dharma Down to their electric-infused "Loved."

Drummond jingle and Christian music composer Danny Ponce to sing with wife Anna, while Mun Balagtas spoke of love and betrayal in his smooth R&B tunes.

Jill Quilter (accompanied beatboxing to his song "Tick Tock Tick."

Intriguing

Ballet Dancer syncopated compositions, "Bum or Limbo" and "Pahirang Ito," sounded intriguing. The improvisability of the tempo, rhythm and melody were a refreshing breather from the usual verse-chorus structure of most songs.

Not to be outdone were the full bands that played, despite their having to use a dinner for each featured synth. Soloist Mark Bautista and his band Plugged poured his sonic concentration in "Hindilala."

Richie Javier and his group FreeFish drew laughter for their cheeky festive ensemble coupled with manic stage showmanship.

Carlos Salazar, band guitarist of the band Dogzz, closed the show with down-rock and valley beats in the songs "Sula" and "I Could Prove Love by Being Human."

Lessons learned

From their recollection, the Dimension workshop touched on almost everything they needed to know about becoming a professional composer, down to fit in and outs of the industry. But for some campers, the most important lessons didn't come in the form of lectures or presentations.

Chicser appreciated the camaraderie and her rediscovery of passion for music. After joining the camp, she said, her heart felt at ease on the thought that music is not just about fame. "It's music to write songs because it makes me happy."

She also realized the importance of spending time to hang out and jam with the likes of Ben Sharo.

BULLET Boron

KAT Lopez

CHARO Suatos

JESSAH Mendez

Elle Daniel, Tay Sarara, Chris Montalbo, Yael Yuksel and Gary V. B were a humbling experience, after encountered, because these artists allowed radical man and wanted to learn more—in spite of their status.

For Bullet, the lessons was finding the right balance between writing music for his own pleasure and what his audience wants to hear. But more importantly, he said that the camp gave him confidence.

He was overjoyed at the campers' warm acceptance of his songs while performing them, even if he felt the tunes were quite long.

Joining Elements for fueled Jessie's desire to write more songs, and eventually make a career for herself. Whatever happens, she said, a

CLARE CU

No-nonsense morning show rocks local FM radio

Text and photos by Pochoki Concepcion

THE FUNNEST popular morning talk shows on local FM radio tend to go extreme: either they roast controversy (Magic 89's "Uncut Boses with Abi") or they resort to silly jokes (Love Radio's "Tambalang Bakulaw at Reinhorn").

Most of the other stations try hard to follow this trend.

But there's one program, "The Hilary & Scotty Show" on Jam 88.3, which takes the no-nonsense route to radio-talk, is fun and enlightens listeners. It doesn't mean, though, that the hosts take themselves too seriously—at best they're quite fun to listen to.

Hilary and Scotty pick up sleepyheads when they open their show with the greeting: "Top of the morning, sir to sunset!" (The show is on from 6-9 a.m., Mondays to Thursdays.)

What follows is a fast-paced commentary on the day's news and events, interspersed by some of the most refreshing pop and rock music not heard since the demise of WRX 107.

Scotty, who is from Scotland (hence the moniker), seems to have adapted well to local culture because he sounds like the neighborhood buddy whom he says the late Manny Pacquiao fight "was boring." He's hilarious when he opines, "I don't understand why people close successfully"—referring to Stoynoff's impossibly tight outfit which forced the singer to walk away from photographers in a recent event.

Hilary, meanwhile, asks, "Would you walk around with a P6 million bag?" She's referring to Pacquiao's latest gift

10 FREE ANTI-HAIRLOSS TREATMENTS!
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(FROM L) Djo Suarez and Hilary Cabo's duo is gaining momentum on radio-up despite their no-frills radio show.

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15

2 KUNG FU PANDA 2 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:25, 10:45

3 KUNG FU PANDA 2 in 3D 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:25

4 KUNG FU PANDA 2 12:05, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:45, 11:45

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Hairloss accelerates the look of aging.

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Allan Castle and Joey Marquez had their share of hairloss problems. Thanks to Svenson's anti-hairloss treatments, they regained their thick, healthy hair! Here's how:

Allan Castle shares: "Last year, while watching my game tapes, I noticed there was visibly thinning in my crown area. The camera mercilessly shoots from behind the bench where I sit so you really see the thinning on top of my head. That made me feel very self-conscious. I wore caps to hide it but I never tried over-the-counter products because of possible side effects. I wasn't risk it but I did decide to try Svenson. And I'm glad I did. After a few months of treatments, I can honestly tell you that I'm very happy with the improvements in my hair. People tell me that it has become thicker. I'm more confident now. I don't have to worry if there's a camera behind me because I don't have to hide anything. I believe in Svenson because I've seen improvements in my hair!"

Joey Marquez shares: "All I can say about hairloss is—if you lose your hair, you add age. Hairloss doesn't just affect a man's confidence, it also affects your self-esteem. When I had my bald spot, I took in the bald jokes and laughed with people, but it seriously demolished my confidence. Hair is the primary feature of your face, it keeps you young. Since I started to lose mine, it made me feel older. I didn't like it. I think it affected my appeal as a woman as well! I had to do something and that was when Svenson came in.

Joey Marquez

After my treatments, I could see visible results. My friends were surprised, they thought it wasn't my real hair! So I let them touch it just to prove that it's natural hair. Having thicker hair just set me back 10 to 20 years. My hair is one of the assets of my sex appeal. Now I get it back, thanks to Svenson!"

Like Allan and Joey, regain your confidence and look younger with healthier and thicker hair! Call 892-HAIR (4247) / 234-0801 Cebu for a FREE private consultation.

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Club gig showcases new Pinoy...

From page E3

would be nice to hear her compositions being played on radio one of these days.

Keeping in touch

There were in Elements might have already rocked, but the feasting and the fraternization among the campers and mentors continue, thanks to Facebook.

"Elements has its own internal Facebook group where some of them are members. They have access to everyone. They've gone on on field trips and visited record labels/offices," said TSH Music Station chief operating officer Stanley Ong Gaston.

"We've all become very good friends. And since we're in the music industry, we always keep tabs on the campers. We want to hear what they're doing," she added.

Aside from the continuous learning process, Stanley said that TSH Music Station helps the campers through networking—informing them about projects they might be interested in.

"It's cool because now I get calls from friends like Jed Madela and Orchestra Kamikazi. They tell me that they're doing a new album and that their band songs. So I tell the campers and ask them to send some of their compositions," she pointed out.

OPM Internet radio

All the Elements mentors were thoroughly impressed by the sheer talent of the campers during the workshops, that what's the point of having all that creative output if they're not going to be heard?

"The good news is that TSH Music Station is gearing up an Internet radio station dedicated exclusively to Filipino music. And with the help of the Organizasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-awit, the member talent is supposed to be up within the next few months.

"In order to become successful, you need to have a good product and find the audience. We just have to create the platform to be heard. It's great that there's still radio based radio, and that there's a lot of other Internet radio stations coming out, mayroong OPM," Stanley said.

No-nonsense...

From page E3

BY NOEL G. ORTEGA

The hosts go on talking about anything that would interest people, wage labor, fast food issues (including exes' exes experiences), surviving in freak accidents, and then proceed to introduce listeners by enlivening dares to patrons.

But if other stations might claim that they are, here does not of live-in exchange in their respective morning shows, but one of their could say the kind of morning show it is very easy to play: deliver to Tony Trivia, Manic Shoes Preacher, Brian Bella, Tatak Ali, Anchorwoman in training, Lenico Bell, Head Dragon, Bonnie Boys, Yuge Spatula (the Maxine, White Stripes, whew, it's so much a revolution).

What's more, they do something other DJs rarely bother to, these days—play the song's title and the artist, plus list of upcoming concerts. Here that's a real radio class.

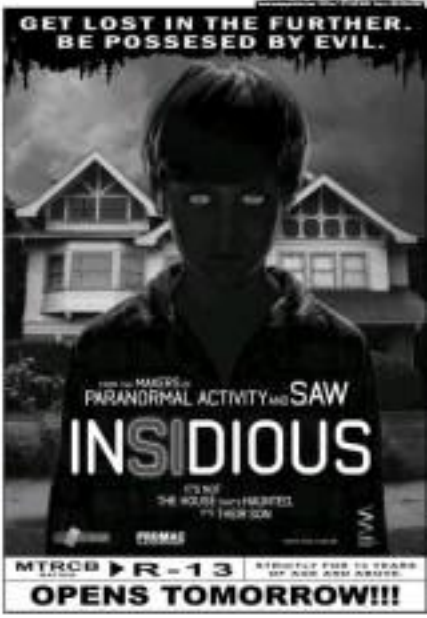
New music club

More clubs have been opening of late, which only validates the view that the live music scene is flourishing. Joey San Andres, vocalist of The Music Making Company, has put up his own venue, Inc. 20A, in the Fort Square across the Bonifacio Center of the Philippines in Manila.

The joyous dropped in one night and caught Arthur Nierenberg, Cari Salenzuela and Tippy Dominguez jamming with San Andres.

ABOVE left: Ejay Gonzalez, A-Dur Manansag, Bong Gonzalez and Joey San Andres

SINGER Kat Valencia jams at the new club Inc. 20A.



Celebs recall embarrassing moments in school

It's 'Hili' first of June tomorrow, signalling back-to-school days. Everyone has a funny story to tell about school pilots. In the course of our campus adventures, we learned more about our selves.

When I was studying in Alliance Francaise Iloilo to supplement my AB Linguistics course in UP Diliman, I got so nervous to go to class since when my cousin Kara was sick. So I skipped class and roamed the streets of Pulse instead.

Famous as they are now, celebs had their own moments in school when they felt inadequate. It only goes to show that every expert was once a beginner. Looking back at our school days always makes us want to travel back in time. May your campus memories inspire you to do your "homework" so you can graduate from one stage of life to another with flying colors.

Sam/Pinky: "When I was in first year high school, I wasn't mature. But I was a pretty girl. When I walked around the campus, people tried to look at me. It made me so conscious. I kept telling myself why they were all staring at me. It felt like I had shit on my face or something."

Jim Paredes: "Loosely guess-school, I was always anxious the night before. I made sure I had the right pencils, ballpen, different sized sheets of paper, scissors, rulers, notebooks, textbooks, etc. I would always dream that I forgot something. But the moment I met my old classmates still in the same section I was in, I felt better.

I always had a hard time shaking off reunion mode on the first week of class. The teacher would often catch me daydreaming or not listening. I probably had that blank stare when my name would be called. I compensated by smiling."

Alka Melendez: "On my first day of school I brought all my stuff, even my PE clothes in case you just suggested here. Anyway my bag was. Only to find out that the day would be spent on orientation."

Marisol Lanuza-Jungbluth: "My first day in 10th grade at Pacific Palisades High School in California was nerve-wracking. I tried to be as Asian as I could, but felt so uneasy not being myself. Since it was the 1990s and Pinoys were revered because of Ethel Pineda Bowie, I realized the best thing to do was to be myself as a proud Pinoy. During recess and lunch, my classmates laughed when they heard my last name, Lanza. I remained calm and snapped at them, "What's the problem? Lanza as in Lanza Corporation my Dad possesses?" They stared at me and gasped, "Man, she's rich." I said, "That's right." From then on I gained their respect."

Gari Estrada-Alberca: "In college I felt that I wouldn't be able to memorize all the names of the buildings in the University of the Philippines than I got so comfortable that I left asleep sitting on the steps while waiting my head on upon."

Joel Madella: "My first day in high school was the worst...being in a new environment but eventually they got used and we became a fan-kada."

Ann Yu: "I had a lot of adjustments to do because I was an Ilokano studying in a Filipino school. I looked like a little lost boy during my first days in college because I didn't know where the class rooms where."

Dolly Wood

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Proper fashion show

Gracia's, the pop culture brand from the UBA, Ayala Center Cebu on March 2011 in effort to showcase all known fashion show at the fifth Mall of Asia. The brand's fun and playful energy was manifested into an exciting display of feminine collections glazed by [illegible]...literally.

Style bloggers Camille Co (iamcamilleco.com), Krye Ty (thestylebaught.wordpress.com), Lorraine Uy (lorrainejoyle.com) and Lissa Kalaquian (chicnpia.com) Issabelle Jayne) made runway fashion their own archey interpreted the trend.

Maxine Magalona, Ellen Magallona and PSB Teen Clash of 2010 alums Ann Li, Frédéric Bercede, Erika Santos, Bret Jackson, Jean Dutzschen and James Reid also joined the fun.

by Sarlbeth, e-mail sarcynglish-diary@yahoo.com

Sarah tops overall, OPM

THE TOP-SELLING albums in the country for the week May 16-22, based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales reports:

Overall

1) Sarah Geronimo, "Our Heart," Viva Records; 2) OST. BLUE, "First Love," Universal Records; 3) ONSIUE, Windows, Universal Records; 4) Bruno Mars, "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," Warner Music; 5) Various Artists, "10: Max Records: David Foster & Friends," Warner Music; 6) CE-BLUE, "Odyssey," Universal Records; 7) Justin Bieber, "My Worlds: The Collection," SRA Music; 8) Various Artists, "Full Blast: Maximum Dance Hits," Ivory Music; 9) Angeline Quinto, "Angeline Quinto," Star Records; 10) Various Artists, "Best Of Praise & Worship Music," Ivory Music

OPM

1) Sarah Geronimo, "Our Heart," Viva Records; 2) Angeline Quinto, "Angeline Quinto," Star Records; 3) Jaya, "Universal Records; 4) Jason Baldonado, "PadMalby," Star Records; 5) Willie Revillame, "I Love You," Viva Records; 6) Rio Aquino, "My Heart's Journey," Universal Records; 7) Various Artists, "By Popular Demand 3," Universal Records; 8) Various Artists, "Pinoy Princesses," Viva Music; 9) Jason Baldonado, "I'd Do Anything For Love," Star Records; 10) Jamie Rivera, "Inspirasyon," Star Records; 11) Bugoy Drilon, "Nung Unang Tayo Pag-Ibig," Star Records

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FASHION WEEK

THE SM LADIES WEAR COLLECTION AT PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK

Colors and prints set the trend for stylish women and ladies who lunch, as clothes from opposite sides of the spectrum make their way from the Philippine Fashion Week runways to the racks of the Ladies Wear Section of the SM Department Store.

BOLD AND BRIGHT

It's a wonderful world as an exotic mix of spicy hues and bold brights, as well as vibrant color blocking, bring exuberance to everyday dressing.

Strapless purple belted maxi dress and emerald jacket

Green ballet top and fuchsia pleated skirt

Plum mock turtleneck long sleeved dress with cut-out shoulders

Nude pink top and royal blue dropped pants

Emerald long sleeves and black pants

A turquoise top and emerald pants

PRINT PERFECT

This is the best time to play with prints as the prettiest of florals, the painterly abstracts, and digital patterns celebrate all that's young, fun, and feminine in fashion.

Watercolor printed safari and printed leggings

Spicy orange bandeau and printed sheer maxi skirt

Abstract printed maxi dress

Ford Supermodel Danica Magpantay made a dramatic entrance in all black towards the end of the show amidst a sea of bright, vibrant colors.

Maxi dress with watercolor print

Maxi dress with ethnic prints

Abstract printed halter jumpsuit

WHITES AND NEUTRALS

The incredible lightness of whites and neutrals – from pristine white to elegant ivory to subtle off-white to modern neutrals – expressed in Grecian inspired numbers, soft silhouettes, and tailored classics.

Spiral turtleneck jumpsuit with belt

White one-shoulder Grecian-inspired maxi dress

White sleeveless turtleneck maxi dress

Tailored white jacket and maxi skirt with sheer lace accent

White tunic and cropped pants in voile

Frilly cutout white dress

THE PARISIAN COLLECTION

AT THE PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK

Colors and prints are playing a big part in the Parisian shoe story, in the same way that brights and neutrals are dominating the Philippine Fashion Week runway.

Show-stopping shoes in bold Brights, pretty Prints, classic Neutrals looks will give the well-heeled fashionista many exciting new ways to step ahead in style.

The Parisian collection is available at the Ladies Shoes Department of selected SM Department Stores nationwide. Styles may also vary per store.

Step into a Bright New World

All is bright as Parisian's **Solid Bright** palette captures the most vibrant of hues in its collection of platform pumps, peep toe shoes, and sling back wedges. Make a bold statement in **Red, Fuchsia, Pamela, Turquoise, Aqua, Avocado, Mustard**, and **Yellow**.

Gisella/Red Patent | Geri/Mustard | Geri/Avocado | Geri/Aqua | Geri/Fuchsia

Develop a Passion for Prints

From playful abstract and squiggly patterns to vibrant garden prints, Parisian's **Printed Brights** collection will bring a touch of whimsy and lots of fashion fun to every step you take.

Pascale Abstract Print-Turquoise | Paige Abstract Print-Fuchsia | Ekrika Abstract Print-Fuchsia | Peony Floral Print-Black | Paige Abstract Print - Lime

Enter into Neutral Territory

You'll have the best of both worlds with Parisian's **Muted Neutrals** collection: the latest shoe designs in timeless, classic colors. Now, that's a new spin to investment dressing.

Gisella/Grey Patent | Geri/Nude | Gisella/Camel Patent | Sarah/Taupe | Nancy/Beige

GUESS WHO DROPPED BY THE SM KIDS COLLECTION AT PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK

Cute and talented kids will always be a draw, and the recent SM Kids show at Philippine Fashion Week drew was no exception.

No less than pound for pound champion Manny Pacquiao and Katie Ford of the world famous Ford Modeling Agency were sighted in front row seats. Fresh from his US triumph over Shane Mosley, Manny Pacquiao and his family made a stop to view the SM Kids Collection at Philippine Fashion Week. The pound for pound champion accompanied by his wife Jinkee and sons Jimuel and Michael made a low key appearance to give support to daughters Princess and Queenie, who were modeling in the show.

Other guests included Annette Gozon-Abrogar, Roxanne Guinoo, Angelika Dela Cruz, Rina Reyes, Beauty Gotior and Fashion Stylist Agot Benggon, and GMA's Suzi Abrera.

The SM Kids Country Couture Collection is available at the Children's Wear Department in all SM Stores Nationwide and the stylish shoes for her from SM Supakids Shoes Collection is available at the Children's Shoes Department in all SM Stores Nationwide.

Manny Pacquiao and wife Jinkee Pacquiao with sons Jimuel and Michael were at the front row of the SM Kids show at the Philippine Fashion Week to give support to daughters Princess and Queenie.

BLUE AND WHITE COUTURE

DENIM + CHECKS

JEANS AND BLOOMS

COUNTRY MIX

FOREVER 21@ PHFW

THE PHFW FOREVER 21 SHOW: THE BACKSTORY

[illegible] executive assistant, the [illegible] store's [illegible] store at Philippine Fashion Week was abuzz with a lot of fashion [illegible] as [illegible] hosts and hostesses [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

(More styles available at Rusty Lopez boutiques and at selected department stores nationwide.)

MOUNTING UP THE RUNWAY

From the rodeo to the runway, Wrangler, one of the world's top three denim brands, fired up its fashion show with the zooming dash of big bikes to feel the vibe and energy of the busy streets. Regaled by the upbeat ethnicity of drums and the modern play of an electric guitar and music, Wrangler outstandingly exemplified fierceness and individuality in its debut at the Philippine Fashion Week.

Wrangler's latest campaign, "Fly. Fit. Fly Edge," introduced four new fits, namely Ace (Relaxed Edge), Crank (Rough Edge), Strokes (Classic Edge) and Molly (Stylish Edge), showcased by muscular and statuesque figures who embodied a powerful aura of ruggedness and free-spirited attitude.

The four different fits characterized the four different personas: ACE the cool and laid-back Relaxed Edge, CRANK, the energy-driven and adventurous Rough Edge, STOKES the fun-loving and sophisticated Classic Edge, and MOLLY the hot and sexy Stylish Edge.

Checkered dress shirts and denim jumpsuits added sizzle to the show, along with versatile six-pack abs and svelte frames. Accentuated by the oozing appeal and confidence of the models, Wrangler justified its sizzling new line of jeans perfect for various body types and lifestyles.

The fashion show brought forward the transformation of edgier and more personalized jeans. The contemporary cowboy gradually transitioned to the modern biker: from fashioned headdresses and checkered caps to loose, textured shirts. To top it all off, Brazilian hunk Daniel Matsunaga, ignited the runway and held everyone out of breath, as the new brand ambassador of Wrangler in the Philippines.

Without a doubt, Wrangler is definitely the timeless edgy brand of jeans that elevate heritage and style.

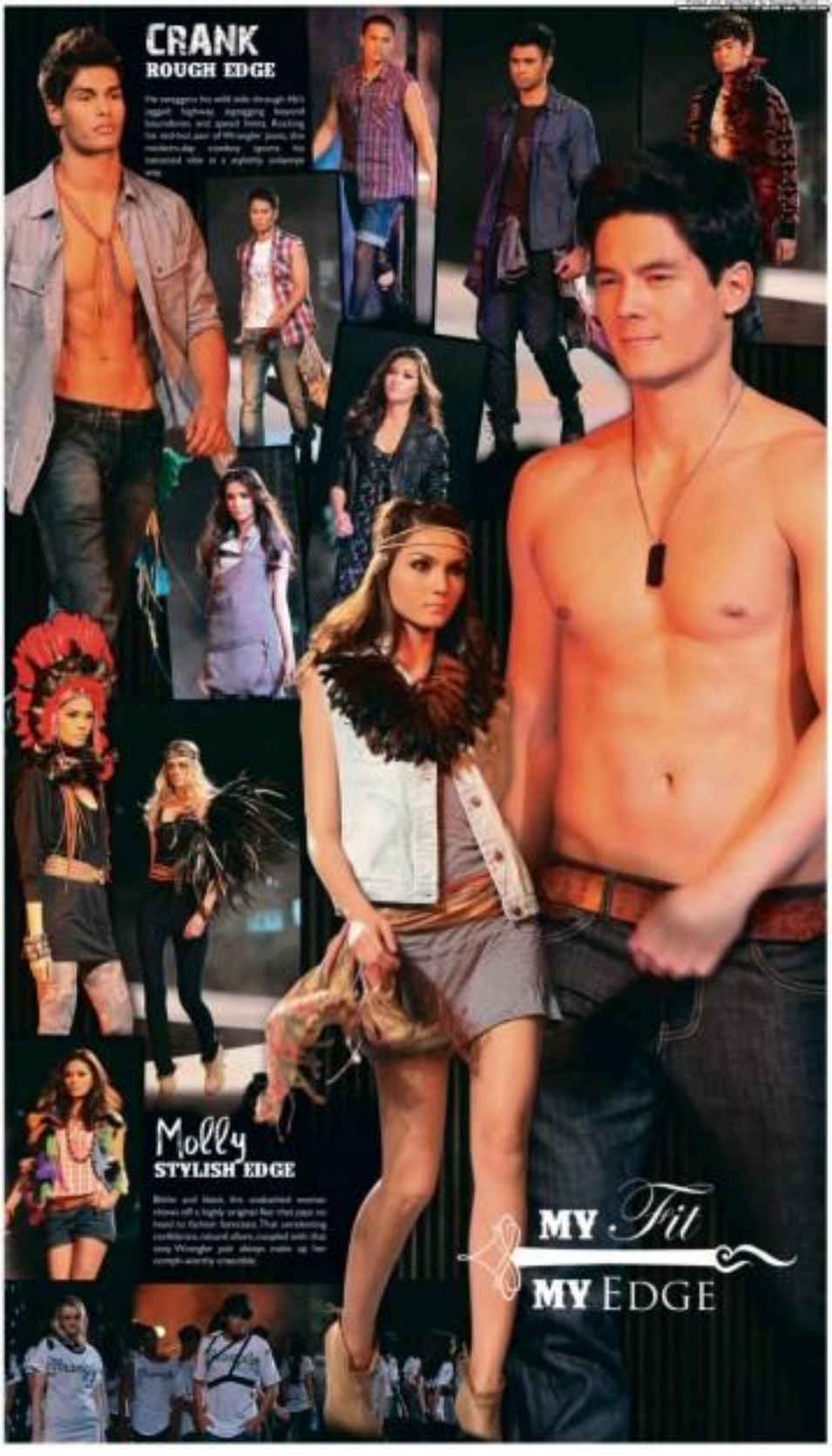
PHILIPPINE
FASHION WEEK

Stokes
CLASSIC EDGE

Smart. Sophisticated. This chic shirt turns the road into her very own runway, showing her polished panache and artless individuality in her high heels and sleek Wrangler jeans.

Ace
RELAXED EDGE

He makes that cowboy hat his forever and that horse, for a moment/ss. This contemporary chap remains preppy and refined, wearing this cool carefree artless vibe with his clean-cut Wrangler jeans.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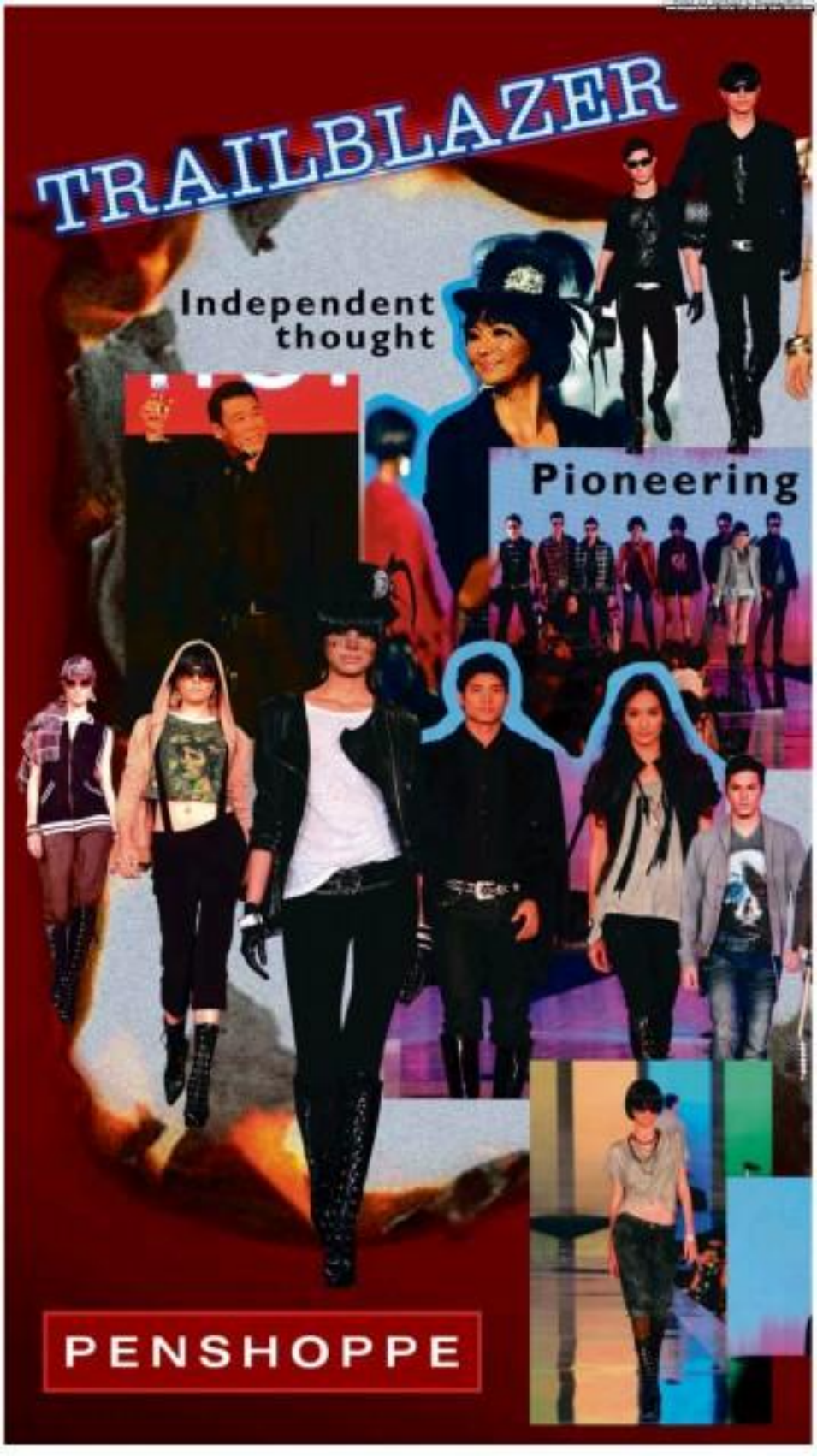
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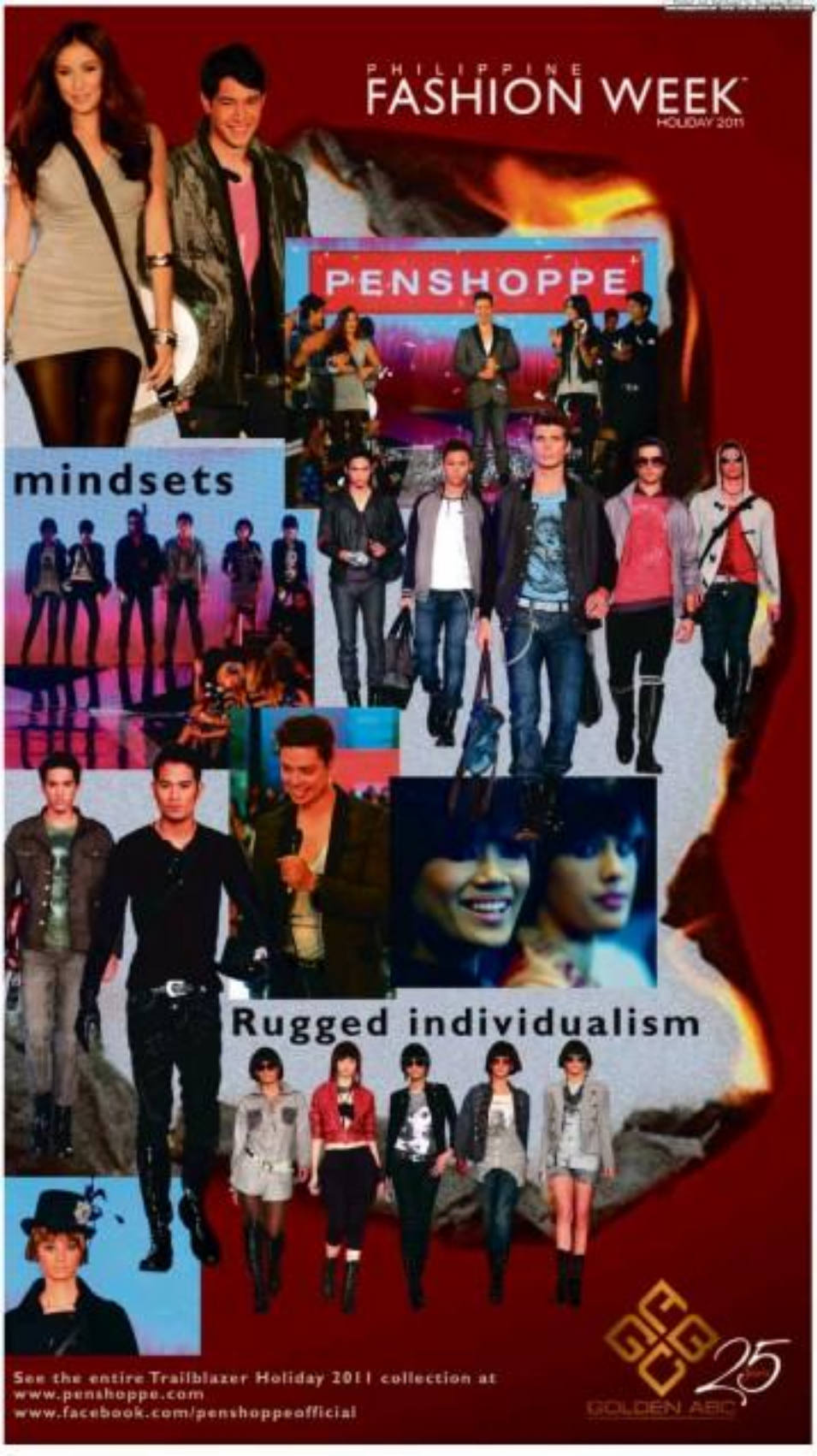
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OXYGEN PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK

F/W 2011 KEY TRENDS

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FREE-FORM KNITWEAR. All about fluidity, movement, and soft draping.
CONTRAST PANELS. Combining different fabrics and textures.

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GGGO 25 GOLDEN ABS

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FASHION WEEK

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A CHARMED LIFE

MEMO

URBAN CHRONICLES

FASHION WEEK

HOLIDAY 2010

SMART LAYERING

Versatility in matching clothes with cohort pieces and accessories that show a totally new outfit that is very much appropriate for an instant change of weather or venue.

COLOR BLOCKING

An ingenious way of creating depth and texture to an otherwise plain garment by playing with bold contrasts of color.

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Collection is available from August - December 2010

GBGC 25 GOLDEN ABS

REGATTA

ALL WHITE COLLECTION
all white tops and bottoms with touches of leather
gray for a bit of color contrast. Textured cuts through sleeves, hems, and cotton jerseys. The look is more relaxed yet still polished by pairing a blazer with t-shirt and shorts - perfect for a weekend in the Hamptons

VARSITY COLLECTION: A play on colors, pattern and layering. With a nod of the collegiate plaids, this collection also includes varsity stripes - styled playfully for fashion week by contrasting small and large club stripes. Layering of t-shirts and button downs with sweaters tied around the waist and around the shoulders as worn prep schools in Rhode

COUNTRYSIDE COLLECTION: Taking a step away from the coast to the resort, we explored earthy tones from the forest to the meadow, orange with a hint of blue. Blazers and denim layered with casual jackets and sweaters in green plaid or houndstooth create a more polished look. Rustic buttons and fringes add to the country, outdoorsy and relaxed feel that define Regatta.

PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK HOLIDAY 2011

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GG 25 GOLDEN ABS

CANDY FROST ROYALE

Once upon a time, girls dreamt of becoming beautiful princesses.

Candie's, the pop culture brand from the U.S.A., turned this fantasy into reality with a magical kingdom of ice, sweets and bubbles. The Ice Skating Rink at the Mall of Asia was transformed into an enchanting pink, complete with vintage street lamps, mini benches, glazed crescent cupcakes and a glistening frozen lake. While celebrities, models and favorite bloggers traipsed down the 'ice' runway in a grand fashion party, professional ice skaters swirled, glided and twirled on the crystalline surface of ice.

Making special appearances as the ruler of every style kingdom were favorite celebrities and fashion bloggers. Tricia and Joanne of PBB and Lara Gonzalves of fashionconfidential.com for Pointe Pelikline—a fashionista rhapsody of floral maxi dresses, pretty sweaters and feminine jumpsuits.

Romantic Daydreamers was opened by Feeson and Ross of PBB while modelslogger Maggie Castillo Co of streetfilez.com wowed the audience with her blooming pink foliage headdress which reflected in the collection of crotchets, delicate laces and dresses.

Bright Crayon play was the theme for the Sports Luxe Collection, as Fred represented Danica Magpantay and blogger Lauren Uy of livealexarexi.com lead the way, painting the catwalk with eye popping shades of graphic frolic.

Elmo Magalona outclassed the sweet element well into the closing collection with a performance that rocked the house. And shake it did while Maxene Magalona and Ivan of PBB opened the Prima Ballerina finale in the Princess and Prince. Krys Uy of shesotrendy.wordpress.com also held court with her all white tutu dress and iced cherry blossom head piece.

Sports Luxe

Not to be out done were the **Candie's** girls that closed the party, clad only in mini sequined shorts, shrunken **Candie's** tees and the runway show's signature sparkling tiaras–a new breed of sexy princesses have come out to steal everyone's hearts.

A night of fantastical femininity, of fairy tales coming true, **Candie's** fun and playful energy was up and electric to the nth – flirtatious smiles, naughty sparkles, and a hot surge of fashion that's as tempting as your favorite sweet confection. **Candie's** is the brand that's sexy, hip and happening, a cool choice for the girl who is forever the princess.

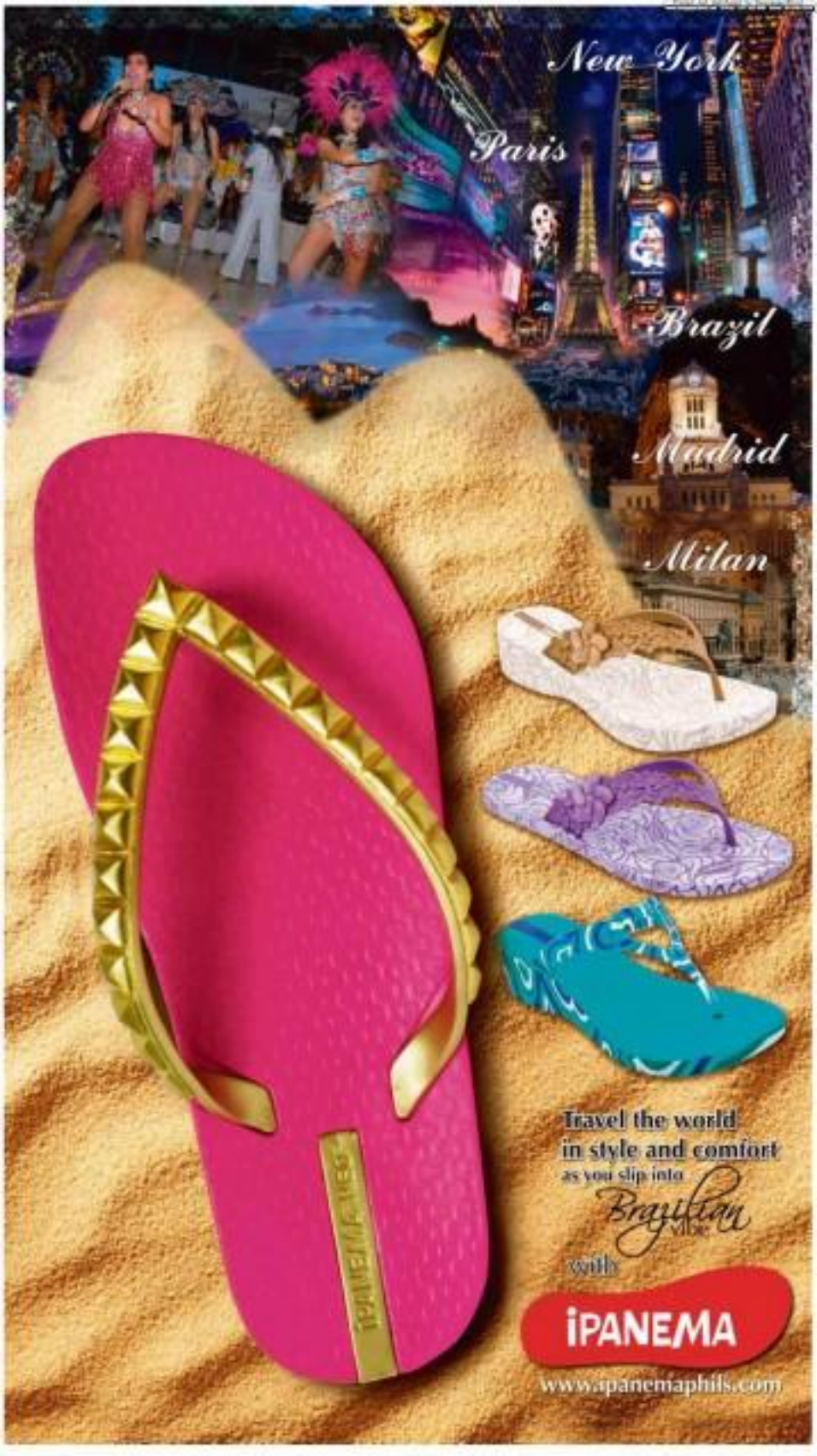
Prima Ballerina

Romantic Daydreamers

Fashion Bloggers

PBB Teen Clash of 2010

FASHION WEEK essensuals LYNELLE Candie's FASHION SHOW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opens

Vivid is the
VAIO of 2011

VAIO C Series

Visibly Smart

VAIO Presents Design Fusion / Visions & Trends at the Philippine Fashion Week Holiday 2011

The stunning duet of the fashionable art and once again turned heavens technology and once again. Their visions are cast towards Sony VAIO as it presented Design Fusion / Visions & Trends at the Philippine Fashion Week Holiday 2011.

Presented at the show were the collections of Ike Pamugas, Gino Profugo, Rueel Villafuerte, Wesley Florencio, Xeniah Orticio, Aries Logot, Enrico Canaleo, Krippy Andrada, Jojo Pamugas, Jan Garcia, Kenneth Chua, Regine Suarez, and Oz Go!

The designers' respective collections served as the perfect backdrop for showcasing the art of VAIO, the inspiration behind a lot of the designs. With VAIO, fashion and technology do mix. Much like any design story, the art of VAIO is both an ongoing creative process and a final masterpiece created especially to cater individual tastes and personality.

The Art of VAIO was once again captured and manifested in the Philippine Fashion Week Holiday 2011, where two of Sony's latest offerings - the youthfully invigorating VAIO C and the elegant VAIO S - became the inspirations for the designers as they released new fashion explorations for the local scene.

Motivated by the uniquely modern, sleek and premium VAIO models, the fashion designers were able to put (a display) of individuality to creations of wearable, chic and modish clothes that will surely excite the public.

These VAIO models were all beautifully exhibited at the high fashion boutique display, which highlights the impressive colors and various modes of the premium brand, allowing consumers to view them in all their glory. Everyone was also encouraged to try and explore once the new VAIO models before and after the exciting show.

VAIO C Series

Vivid is the VAIO of 2011

For the start of 2011, Sony is splashing color into the personal computer landscape as it re-introduces VAIO C. It is defined by an attractive choices, using a light emitting material that comes in stunning hues of orange, green, and pink, and in elegantly simple black and white. Depending on its surroundings, the new VAIO C gives the impression of glitter, zig and glowing with light.

The 14-inch new VAIO C is a high-performing line-up giving options for an Intel® Core™ i5 processor, or a hybrid SSD system that switches automatically depending on users' power requirement.

VAIO Products are available in all authorized Sony VAIO Dealers
visit sonystyle.com.ph

Truly Mobile Remarkably Powerful

Photo by: Zorbh Mercado

The VAIO S, link in its positioning up a business tool, gets revitalized with the new series. Conceptualized for business travelers, the VAIO S comes in a new full-flat design, with a concealed hinge, and a beautiful magnesium heave shell. Responding to the needs of constant mobility, an optional but extended battery is also available for the VAIO S to give the user 12 hours of battery life. This extended battery can be charged on its own with the use of a dedicated charger. Just attach the extended battery when needed for longer hours of wonderfulness. The indomitable 13 inch screen does not sacrifice on performance with the latest 2nd generation Intel® Core™ i5 processor and AMD Radeon™ HD 6470M GPU with 512MB VRAM.

VAIO S Series

The Art of VAIO in brand new models

Responsive to the market's needs and requirements, Sony is also offering more VAIO product models that set standards in mobility, design, and performance.

Aside from VAIO C, another dynamic, line-up is the VAIO E, which comes in glossy colors and unique patterns. From the college hole to the business district boardrooms, VAIO E embodies vibrancy of each person's individuality.

Meanwhile, an 11.6-inch beauty, the VAIO Y Series is designed to be stylish and ergonomic. Its profile narrows down to a comfortable one line, for a sleek, tapered look. Full featured but incredibly light at less than 1.5 kg, the VAIO Y can easily be slipped inside one's briefcase or bag, lasting up to 4 hours without charging. The series is powered by an AMD Dual-Core Processor E-450 with AMD Radeon™ HD 6310 Discrete Class Graphics, delivering an immersive, vivid and smooth HD experience, including controllable playback of full HD video and home internet operations.

Lastly, Sony introduces the new VAIO F series, the first ever 3D VAIO. It brings a 16.0" full HD display enabling bright and crisp 3D images, optimized for comfortable, flicker-free viewing. Powered by Intel® Core™ i7 Quad core processor and NVIDIA® GeForce GT 540M GPU, Sony banished from the game changing technology of the BRAVIA and evolution in home sequential method with LED backlit control in the VAIO F.

Sony in Philippine Fashion Week Holiday 2011

Showcasing and merchandising – these are the unique propositions offered by Sony for both the realms of fashion and technology. As it presents its new products in the brand new season of Philippine Fashion Week, Sony continues to push the envelope for looking good and performing well.

Collaboration and VAIO boutiques display of Philippine Fashion Week Holiday 2011.

From left to right: Mr. Yong Rey, Director, VAIO Marketing and E-Sales; Mr. Takio Kuroda, President and Managing Director, Sony Philippines Inc.; Ms. Jhoie Benedicto, Product Marketing, VAIO and Lyann Macedo, Channel Marketing, VAIO

Sony Philippine Inc.'s President and Managing Director, Takio Kuroda, with the lucky winners of a VAIO Y Series.

Models carrying the latest VAIO C & S Series

PHILIPPINE
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PREMIERE A

PREMIERE B

PREMIERE C

"10"

MENSWEAR

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VAIO presents DESIGN FUSION

VAIO presents VISIONS & TRENDS

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